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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Returns From Visit to Asia, Turkey

LD2709174093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Excerpts] The brother leader, President Abu-'Ammar, arrived yesterday in Tunis from Ankara, following a tour during which he visited China, Indonesia, and Turkey. [passage omitted]

President Abu-'Ammar described the talks he held yesterday and the day before yesterday with the Turkish officials in Ankara as very positive. He said the Turks offered him their support to rebuild the occupied territories, which need to be rebuilt from scratch. [passage omitted]

PLO Central Council To Meet on Autonomy Accord

NC2709173593 Paris AFP in English 1446 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Tunis, Sept 27 (AFP)—The PLO central council, a steering body, is to meet here on October 10 to ratify the autonomy accord with Israel, Palestinian officials said Monday [27 September].

Officials at the Palestine Liberation Organisation headquarters in Tunis said the council of around 100 members would debate the accord signed by the PLO and Israel in Washington on September 13.

The decision to convene the council was taken by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, who returned to Tunis late Sunday, at a meeting attended by members of the decision-making executive committee, they said.

Several factions within the PLO have rejected the autonomy accord as a sell-out of Palestinian rights.

They have demanded a meeting of the Palestine National Council, a parliament-in-exile, or a referendum on the deal, under which autonomy is to be launched in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho on October 13.

But the executive committee and Fatah, the main group within the PLO and led by 'Arafat, have both approved the accord. A condition of their support was a meeting of the central council.

The council will also discuss the make-up of committees for negotiations with Israel on the implementation of the autonomy deal, the officials said.

Qaddumi, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Peace Process

LD2709191493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, yesterday evening received U.S. Ambassador to Tunis John McCarthy. Brother Abu-Lutf welcomed the U.S. ambassador and expressed hope that the United States would soon recognize the PLO. Serious and comprehensive talks were held on the latest developments of the Palestinian question and on the peace being negotiated, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed in Washington.

Brother Abu-Lutf explained to the U.S. ambassador that we were still on the threshold of a hard and difficult phase in the negotiations to bring about full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, to achieve the appropriate rights of freedom and national independence for our Palestinian people, and of return for Palestinian refugees in accordance with international legitimacy.

Brother Abu-Lutf said that coordination and cooperation had to be strengthened with fraternal Arab countries concerned with the negotiations and efforts multiplied to preserve the national unity of the Palestinian people.

The talks also tackled the role of the UN General Assembly, to which brother Abu-Lutf will head a PLO delegation, and its agenda, which will include the Palestinian question.

The U.S. ambassador expressed his government's desire to maintain contact with the PLO, happiness to have met Brother Abu-Lutf, and desire to continue dialogue.

UN Deputy Envoy Says Mission To Close Before Next Year

JN2809114093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Sep 93

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpt] Amman—Dr. Riyad al-Ramahi, deputy chief of the Palestinian mission to the United Nations, has stated that the mission will be completely dissolved before the beginning of next year. He said that in light of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement signed in Washington recently, there will be no Palestinian mission at the next session of the UN General Assembly. He expected that there would only be an economic mission.

While in Amman, back from New York, Dr. al-Ramahi disclosed that Nabil al-'Arabi, Egyptian Ambassador to the United Nations, engineered the contacts between the Palestinian and Israeli missions, which are headed by Nasir al-Qudwah and Gad Ya'aqobi. He said these contacts are aimed at abolishing UN resolutions on the Palestine question.

He said the Palestinian-Israeli agreement means the end of the PLO. He said that after the signing of the letters of mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, the PLO will no longer be the organization that we have known because it has abandoned the national program according to which it was established.

Dr. al-Ramahi pointed out that since the Palestinian-Israeli agreement was signed, the Palestinian mission at the United Nations has lost its political role and its only job now is to present proposals and economic requests that have nothing to do with the Palestine question and national struggle. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Adviser on Future Accords With Egypt

LD2609192793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Brother Nabil Sha'th, PLO political adviser of brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], said that the Palestinian-Israeli Committee for Elections in Gaza and Jericho would be set up during the 22d round of bilateral negotiations in Washington next month, as a subcommittee derived from the negotiations. Its mission will be to define the electoral system and related operations, in accordance with the agreement on the declaration of principles and the Gaza-Jericho protocol.

In a statement to the Egyptian paper AL-AHRAM, he added that the Central Council, empowered by the Palestinian National Council, would meet within 10 days in order to adopt the agreement. He disclosed that there were Egyptian-Palestinian talks taking place—between the bodies concerned with the details of Egyptian support for the national authority in Gaza and Jericho—in order to prepare frameworks and systems of Palestinian transitional rule, including the Palestinian security forces.

Brother Nabil Sha'th pointed out that several agreements would take place between Egypt and the Palestinian transitional government immediately after its establishment. The first agreement would be economic and related to investment and development in the Palestinian territories, and the second would be related to crossing through Egyptian airports and ports until the Gaza maritime port is set up. The third would be related to cooperation in all fields within the Arab framework in addition to other agreements, which would be held by the transitional government with Egypt, Jordan, and Arab neighboring states.

Comments on Return of Refugees

NC2709104593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stressed that the Gaza-Jericho agreement represents a transitional five-year stage to achieve self-rule to be followed by a final stage, during which an independent Palestinian state will be established. He noted that approximately 800,000 Palestinian refugees from 1967 will be returned during the first stage and the rest, from 1948, after an independent Palestinian state is established.

At a conference in al-'Arish last night, Dr. Sha'th said: "Negotiations on the timetable for an Israeli withdrawal will begin with the Israeli Government on 13 October and end on 14 July to establish a Palestinian state that will begin first in Gaza and Jericho."

Dr. Sha'th said agreement has been reached with the World Bank and with the governments of the United States, Canada, Belgium, and Saudi Arabia to strengthen the economy of the independent Palestinian state. Negotiations are under way with Egypt to develop and construct the region, to secure technical cooperation with Palestinian cadres, and to provide Egyptian technical and scientific specialists. [passage omitted]

Jericho Hotel Reportedly To Be PLO Headquarters

NC2709120593 Paris AFP in English 1139 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Sept 27 (AFP)—The PLO will set up headquarters in a 70-room hotel in the West Bank town of Jericho towards the end of the year as the Palestinian autonomy scheme takes shape, the manager told AFP on Monday [27 September].

"The PLO has chosen this hotel for its headquarters when it moves to Jericho in the winter," said Raja'i 'Abduh, manager of Hisham Palace Hotel.

The autonomy plan starts in Jericho and the Gaza Strip from October 13 and PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat has predicted his return in December or January.

The PLO offered the owners a rent of 50,000 Jordanian dinars (80,000 dollars) a year and the contract was due to be signed in the coming days, 'Abduh said.

A Spanish firm has been lined up to carry out a 500,000-dollar renovation programme in the next two months. According to the manager the Spanish government was helping to cover the cost.

"It needs renovating," he admitted.

The PLO later intends to use the hotel as a VIP guest facility and will sign a contract for a maximum of five years, the same length of time as autonomy is to last, 'Abduh said.

The hotel on 'Ayn al-Sultan Street in the centre of the oasis town was built in 1947 and entertained numerous foreign dignitaries, including King Husayn of Jordan, until Israel seized the West Bank in the 1967 war.

Hisham Palace Hotel, which is owned by the 'Abduh family of Jerusalem, has remained open in recent years, but found few guests and many members of the family have set up house there.

The 'Abduhs had asked for a rent of 150,000 dinars, the manager admitted.

The hotel is named after Hisham, an eighth century Umayyad caliph who ordered the construction of a winter palace outside Jericho, which claims to be the oldest town in the world.

The palace was never finished but the sprawling ruins, restored in the 12th century and later destroyed by an earthquake, are today a popular site with tourists.

'Abd-al-Shafi Comments on Retirement From Politics

JN2709161193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Interview with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the delegation to the peace talks, by 'Umar al-Zaydani; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Zaydani] Will you really give up political life?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is true. I have a desire to do so. However, I was asked if I am going to take part in the interim government when it is formed. I said I do not have a desire to hold any administrative or government post during the forthcoming interim period.

[Al-Zaydani] My second question: Why don't you want to hold a post during the interim period?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Actually, there are age considerations. I am 70 years old, which means it is time for me to rest.

[Al-Zaydani] Will you continue to lead the Palestinian delegation to the talks on self-government in Gaza and Jericho?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not know what the upcoming arrangements are. I assume that with the declaration of principles, the first phase, that is, the Madrid negotiations, has ended. Until now, the leadership did not announce any new arrangements. So, everything will be dealt with at the proper time.

[Al-Zaydani] Does this mean there have been no contacts between you and the PLO since the signing of the agreement in Washington?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, ever since I returned from Washington—as you know I live in Gaza and contacts are not easy—there have not been any contacts.

[Al-Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, you are not satisfied with the agreement, to a large extent.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, I have some reservations, as I've announced on more than one occasion. At the same time, however, I said this agreement opens up possibilities. The upcoming negotiations will show if this assessment is true. Therefore, my declared opinion was that the leadership and the opposition should adopt a unified Palestinian position on these upcoming negotiations in order to see what possibilities are contained in this agreement.

[Al-Zaydani] As far as you know, are there contacts among the Palestinians in order to unify the ranks of the various parties in the Palestinian camp, especially inside the territories?

['Abd-al-Shafi] There is talk about this. For example, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] announced its willingness to meet with Fatah. I personally urge the opposition inside the PLO—both the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—to be willing to meet in order to unify ranks. I also urge the leadership and President 'Arafat to give the opposition the chance to take part in the upcoming negotiations.

[Al-Zaydani] An Israeli expert talked about the possibility of a limited civil war among Palestinians. What is your comment?

['Abd-al-Shafi] First of all, I do not think there is such a possibility. We are very concerned about preventing differences from becoming wider and from turning into intra-Palestinian fighting or violence. This would be suicide for the Palestinian people. I am certain Palestinian political maturity will prevent a deterioration toward such a situation.

[Al-Zaydani] The mutual recognition agreement between the PLO and Israel talks about stopping acts of violence. Do you really think acts of violence should be stopped, for a specific testing period?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is hard to predict what will happen. The issue very much depends on Israeli moves and measures that give the impression Israel is serious about reaching peace. So far, there are no Israeli initiatives in this direction. I say this in order for Israel to realize that the Palestinian people want to sense serious moves that convince them of a new Israeli policy to reach a just peace.

[Al-Zaydani] Don't you believe that mutual recognition and the establishment of self-government in Gaza-Jericho First express a serious move on the Israeli Government's part to solve the Palestinian issue?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This only demonstrates readiness. We want measures on the ground, such as the release of a great number of political prisoners and an official commitment to the Geneva conventions, in addition to similar measures.

[Al-Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, a final question. Will you take part in the negotiations on self-government in Gaza-Jericho First?

['Abd-al-Shafi] As I said, I do not know. Everything will be dealt with at its proper time. I cannot talk about anything before we know what the leadership's arrangements are.

[Al-Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, thank you very much.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

Poll Measures Support for PLO, Gaza-Jericho Accord

JN2509075193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Sep 93 p 10

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—More than two thirds of Palestinians in the occupied territories support the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement giving them interim self-rule, according to an opinion poll conducted recently.

The survey of 1,505 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip conducted by the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre (JMCC) and sponsored by CNN and France 2 television also showed that support for Islamic groups opposed to the agreement was waning.

The poll showed that 68.6 per cent said they agree with the Sept. 13 accord only 27.8 per cent opposed the deal and 3.6 per cent gave a different answer.

According to the poll, the accord was more popular in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho—where Palestinians would initially have greater autonomy than in the rest of the occupied territories.

It said 72 per cent of Gazans and 83.2 per cent of Jericho residents backed the deal.

The poll also showed that 64.4 per cent of the respondents had more confidence in the PLO-led nationalist camp compared to 17.5 per cent who put their faith in Islamic groups.

An opinion poll conducted by the JMCC last month showed that 30.9 per cent said they trusted PLO-led nationalists compared to 24.1 per cent backed other groups.

The sample included 920 West Bankers including (Jerusalem) and 585 Gazans.

Asked if the agreement added legitimacy to the Israeli occupation, 37.5 per cent said yes, 54.6 said no and 7.9 were not decided—68.1 per cent viewed the agreement as a means for saving them from the difficult living conditions while 24.2 per cent saw otherwise.

Asked whether the agreement will lead to internal Palestinian strife, 26.2 per cent said yes, 60.8 per cent said no while 12.3 were not decided.

Asked whether the Palestinian leadership will be able to run the Palestinian affairs in the interim period, 26.2. per cent said yes and 64.2 said no.

Asked whether they support the continuation of negotiations with Israel, 72.9 per cent said yes, 25 per cent said no, while 2.1 were not decided.

Asked which party can save them from the status quo, 64.4 per cent said the nationalist forces (the PLO), and 17.5 said Islamic forces while 18.1 per cent saw otherwise.

On the impact of the PLO-Israel agreement on the Palestinian people's positions, 46.5 per cent said their support for the PLO had increased, 19.1 said their support for and confidence in the PLO had diminished, and 24.6 per cent said the agreement had no impact on their confidence and support for the PLO while 9.8 per cent said they had no opinion.

In the Gaza Strip, 72 per cent of the sample surveyed voiced their support for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, as opposed to 66.4 per cent in the occupied West Bank.

- 64.2 of the Gazans covered by the poll saw the agreement as a practical step to establish a Palestinian state while 57.6 of the West Bankers shared this view.
- 29.05 of the Gazans said the agreement legitimises the Israeli occupation compared with 42.6 per cent in the West Bank.
- 74.7 per cent of the Gazans and 64 per cent of the West Bankers said the agreement was a means to save them from the difficult conditions.

On the possibility of Palestinian strife, 16.8 per cent of the Gazans and 33.2 of the West Bankers said the agreement will lead to internal fighting.

In Gaza 17.6 per cent, as opposed to 31.6 per cent in the West Bank, said the Palestinian leadership will be able to run the Palestinian affairs in the interim rule period.

- 75.9 per cent of the Gazans and 71 per cent of the West Bankers supported the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Asked which party is most able to save them from the status quo, 70.1 of the Gazans and 60.7 of the West Bankers said the PLO, while 18.1 per cent in Gaza and 17.1 in the West Bank said Islamic forces.

In Gaza, 52.8 per cent said their support for and confidence in the PLO had increased as compared to 42.4 per cent of the West Bankers.

- 15 per cent of the Gazans and 21.8 per cent of the West Bankers said their support for and confidence in the PLO had diminished while 22.5 per cent and 25.9 per cent in Gaza and the West Bank respectively said the agreement had no impact on their position towards the PLO.

In Jericho, the poll found that 83.2 per cent of the sample surveyed were in favour of the agreement and that 79.8 per cent saw the agreement as a practical step to establish a Palestinian state.

- 28.7 per cent said the agreement legitimises the Israeli occupation while 67 per cent saw otherwise.
- 84 per cent saw the agreement as a means for saving them from their difficult living conditions, and 23.2 said it will lead to internal strife and fighting while 73.7 said it will not lead to violence.

On the ability of the PLO to run the Palestinian affairs in the interim stage, 21.3 per cent said the PLO can run Palestinian affairs while 73.4 per cent saw otherwise.

- 85.3 per cent supported the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, while 18.6 per cent rejected it.
- 79.3 per cent said the PLO was the most capable power of saving them from their current situations while 6.5 per cent said Islamic forces were the most qualified to do that.

On the impact of the agreement on their positions on the PLO, 64.1 per cent said their support for and confidence in the PLO had increased while 9.8 per cent said their support and confidence had diminished. However, 18.5 per cent said the agreement has no impact on their support for and confidence in the organisation.

PLA Fighters in Iraq To Receive Police Training

JN2809055693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] A PLO official has disclosed that the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] fighters stationed in Iraq will soon be moved to Jordan to undergo police training. The PLO official, who preferred anonymity, said that Amman announced its readiness to train the estimated 3,000 PLA fighters.

The PLO official added that approximately 200 elements from the occupied territory are expected in Jordan within the next two weeks to undergo special training to protect important Palestinian personalities.

'Arafat Reportedly Orders Camps in Lebanon To Disarm

NC2709141093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1336 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Beirut, 27 Sep (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources have reported that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has issued an order to collect light and medium weapons from the Palestinians belonging to the Fatah Movement in Lebanon, beginning with the camps in the south, before handing over these arms to the Lebanese Army.

The sources added that implementation of the decision began two weeks ago, when 'Arafat dispatched 'Ala' al-Afandi, a leading Palestinian official who is close to him, to Lebanon. Al-Afandi is also charged with mobilizing about 2,000 Palestinians to train them as police and army [as received] forces for the Palestinian state in line with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

The Lebanese newspaper NIDA' AL-WATAN reported today that with this decision, 'Arafat seeks to defuse any possible intra-Palestinian war in Lebanon, to reduce the PLO's financial burdens in Lebanon, to transfer the funds to Gaza and Jericho, to allow Lebanese security personnel to enter the camps to protect Palestinian civilians, and to forestall Tehran's efforts to finance a Lebanese-Palestinian front that would operate against the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Tehran has allocated large sums of money for the purpose.

The newspaper added that the Palestinian political leadership in Lebanon told the Lebanese authorities a few days ago that it does not object to the Lebanese Army's entry to the camps for security purposes.

DFLP To Boycott All Meetings Called by 'Arafat

JN2809093693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Sep 93 p 6

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Riyad Mansur in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mansur] The Gaza-Jericho agreement has won the support of Arab and world capitals. So why is the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] opposed to the agreement?

[Hawatimah] The peace process on the Palestinian track is currently not in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy nor the resolutions of Palestinian legitimacy. The agreement has been placed before the entire world. It has dealt a blow to the ongoing Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations. It even fails to match the Madrid formula. It has become clear that 'Arafat's decision was undemocratic in the PLO institutions.

They have abandoned the 22-month direct negotiations in Washington because the U.S. Administration, Israel, and 'Arafat began to feel that 'Arafat has become a minority in the ranks of the Palestinian people. Therefore, since November 1992, they have turned from the Washington negotiations to secret diplomacy in Oslo and Cairo. This is because they felt that in accordance with the Israeli conditions, 'Arafat could not peddle any agreement in Washington. Hence they resorted to secret diplomacy and to al- Sadat's famous shock policy. Thus, 'Arafat accepted the Israeli conditions, and U.S. President Clinton himself intervened to market the agreement. So did Mubarak with the Arab states. Nevertheless, on 13 September 1993, the world witnessed a glaring Middle East paradox. While the signing of the 'Arafat-Israel agreement was being celebrated in Washington, a comprehensive strike was being staged in the occupied territories and big demonstrations were being held in the refugee camps in the diaspora—in Lebanon and Syria. Black flags were also being raised wherever the Palestinian people exist in the occupied territories and the diaspora. We recall that Rabin said in his Torah speech on 13 September that Israel is happy that its conditions have been imposed.

The agreement took place behind the backs of our people, the legitimate Palestinian institutions, and the PLO factions. However, Western circles propagate the agreement and forget the well-established democracy in their countries. Only a minority in the PLO Executive Committee approved the agreement—eight out of 18. Therefore, we said that the agreement is destined to failure and that it is illegitimate. It has been approved by neither the PLO factions nor its institutions. Eight PLO Executive Committee members signed the agreement and tried to impose it on the entire Palestinian people. Therefore, we say that this an agreement of submission. We will continue struggle to contain it and topple it on the ground and in the Palestinian territory. [passage omitted]

[Mansur] You are against the agreement and say that the majority of people is opposed to it. For his part, President 'Arafat says that the majority is on his side. He also says that the agreement is his only available option. How can we be sure on whose side the majority stands? And what is the alternative to the agreement?

[Hawatimah] We are democratic. Therefore, we call for holding a referendum of the Palestinian people on this agreement. The results of such a referendum should be respected inside and outside the occupied territories. We urge the world to respect such a referendum. [passage omitted]

The situation is, therefore, more complex than it was before the signing of the accord. We propose the following countermeasures:

First, to escalate the intifadah action, including Gaza and Jericho, against the Israeli forces and settlements. We caution 'Arafat against the terms of the agreement and an intra-Palestinian war.

Second, we are now forging a united national front embracing all the democratic, nationalist, and Islamic forces to delegitimize the accord and its signers. We will call popular rallies in the homeland. Our fight against occupation will continue in all its popular, political, and armed aspects. We are confident that we will mobilize forces in the Arab states alongside the Palestinian people. We will pursue our struggle for a comprehensive peace based on the Palestinian people's right to full representation and peace based on UN resolutions. We will be joined in this effort by all the factions within and outside the PLO. Significantly, half Fatah stands by us. We are now trying to talk our brother opponents of the accord in Fatah into joining our efforts in the public rallies in the homeland and in the diaspora. [passage omitted]

[Mansur] Have you received specific support or been promised anything from any country?

[Hawatimah] Honestly speaking, political support is what we need most now. Our struggle will mobilize masses. As you know, the Arab world is split over the agreement. I think the Arab world will be further polarized, since the Arab states want a comprehensive peace and are not interested in bilateral and separate deals.

If Rabin thinks that he will get away with peace on just one front he is mistaken. We want a comprehensive peace on all fronts. I mean there is a groundswell of opposition to the agreement among Arab masses—something the Arab governments are becoming aware of and taking into account.

[Mansur] Assuming the Gaza-Jericho accord delivers the Palestinian state in two to three years, will you consider dealing with 'Arafat?

[Hawatimah] I do not know whether his accord will survive that long without the United States and Israel propping him up with iron legs. In any case, our Palestinian people have the right to a referendum. No matter what the result of such a referendum, we will honor it. We are demanding a UN-supervised referendum. A majority of our people will say no to the accord. In two to three years, if our people are given the choice to exercise self-determination leading to statehood, the DFLP will join in.

[Mansur] What do you think of Yasir 'Arafat's call for a cessation to hostilities and violence?

[Hawatimah] Bound by the Oslo-Washington accord, 'Arafat called for a halt to hostilities and violence against the Israeli occupation while the occupation is still in place and more settlements are being built and existing ones expanded. The Israelis still control Arab Jerusalem which they are Judaizing and calling their eternal capital as Rabin said brazenly in his White House ceremony address on 13 September. Plus, the Israelis are still holding 15,000 prisoners and closing off the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The DFLP, together with most of the Palestinian factions, inlcuding Fatah members, have rebuffed 'Arafat's demand for a halt to violence and military action and view it as a personal stand that does not obligate our people and their intifadah activists—the intifadah striking forces, the Red Star, the Red Eagle, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam battalions, Fatah's hawks, al-Jihad battalions, and all other fugitive militants who will continue to deal blows to an odious occupation regime until it quits our dear occupied land. [passage omitted]

[Mansur] How do you see your future relations with the PLO?

[Hawatimah] We have annouced our withdrawal from the existing PLO Executive Committee, because it has been slighted by 'Arafat conducting secret negotiations behind its back. He has also flouted the majority opinion in the Executive Committee.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and we have announced our boycott of any meetings called by 'Arafat, because such sessions will be a smokescreen for 'Arafat's secret deals with Rabin.

OPEC Affairs

Output Ceiling To Be Raised to 24.5 Million Barrels

AU2709114693 Paris AFP in English 1140 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Geneva, Sept 27 (AFP)—OPEC agreed Monday [27 September] to raise its output ceiling to 24.5 million barrels a day in a bid to bolster its credibility and raise prices, Secretary General Subroto said.

The agreement came on the third day of talks here. But the question remained how OPEC would distribute the ceiling among its members.

Iran Reports on Production Agreement

LD2709182593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] At their meeting today, the OPEC oil ministers reached an agreement on the ceiling of the organization's oil production in the fourth quarter of the current Christian year.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Under the agreement, the 12 OPEC member countries will produce 24 million barrels per day [bpd] in the fourth quarter of this year. Therefore, compared to the present ceiling, OPEC's production will increase by about 900,000 bpd.

Iranian Oil Minister Aqazadeh-Kho'i, who is attending the OPEC session in Geneva, in an interview described the ceiling affixed by the OPEC for the third quarter of this year as good.

He assured: Abiding by the ceiling, due to market conditions and demand in the fourth quarter, will result in an increase in the price of oil on the world markets. He added: The OPEC oil ministers' talks are continuing on affixing new quotas for member countries. The session is expected to reach a definite conclusion on the matter by noon tomorrow.

According to our country's oil minister, a committee comprising the oil ministers of Gabon, Venezuela, Libya, and the OPEC secretary general is at present holding talks with oil delegations from member countries to obtain the agreement of the members on the preparation of a new table of OPEC oil production quotas.

In the current OPEC talks, the Iranian delegation has asked for a 400,000 bpd increase in our country's new quota, Kuwait has asked for its production ceiling to be raised to 2.16 million bpd, and Saudi Arabia, which is the biggest producer in the OPEC, has announced that it will not reduce its ceiling of 8 million bpd.

Kuwaiti Quota Proposal Refused

LD2709213793 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Geneva—Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli said that Kuwait has refused a proposal by the OPEC member countries to fix its quota to 1.9 million barrels a day for the last quarter of this year. In statements to media correspondents in Geneva tonight, the oil minister expressed the preparedness of the State of Kuwait to return to the quota system allocated by OPEC on an equitable basis. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Union of Opposition Factions To Be Announced

PM2409135193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Sep 93 p 4

[Jamal Khashuqji report: "Kebir Tells AL-HAYAH: Executive Committee To Encourage Unification of Armed Movements"]

[Text] Jeddah—Sources from the (disbanded) Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] have revealed that an announcement of the unification of the armed factions working against the authorities in Algeria will be issued soon in the same manner as the announcement of the unification of the FIS leadership abroad. The FIS last week announced the formation of an "Executive Committee" to lead FIS elements abroad under Cheik Rabih Kebir.

The announcement of the FIS' unification abroad coincides with the emergence of numerous armed groups inside the country operating outside the FIS framework and actually attacking its leaders.

Cheik Kebir told AL-HAYAH over the telephone in Jeddah that the formation of the "Executive Committee is a first step toward unifying action inside the country as well." He added: "Through our announcement about forming the Executive Committee and uniting all the brothers operating abroad within the framework of the FIS' plan we hope to speed up a similar announcement inside the country."

FIS sources revealed the existence of "extensive contacts between the various factions leading the opposition inside Algeria in order to unify them under one leadership committed to the FIS line." They said that "unification of the mujahidin inside the country will be announced within days or a few weeks."

On Saturday [18 September] the FIS distributed a statement dated 14 September announcing the formation of the Executive Committee abroad. It said "it is a unification of the FIS' energies and capabilities." It urged the people to close their ranks "and unite so that you can build the Islamic state you are seeking."

In his statement Kebir said that one of the reasons for forming the committee and seeking to unify the opposition inside the country is "the expansion of activities and the fact that hundreds of young men—among them many of the Army's sons—are now rushing to join the opposition's ranks. So it was necessary to bring about a unified and strong organization to prevent infiltration by the ruling clique's supporters."

The Front did not specify in its statement the number of new Executive Committee members or their whereabouts. It just mentioned the names of three members of the committee in addition to its chairman (Rabih Kebir). They are:

1. Qamar-al-Din Kharban. He was a member of the Front's Shura Council when it was operating publicly in Algeria. His membership was frozen at the Batna meeting held in the summer of 1991 following the arrest of the Front's leaders, including Abassi Madani and Ali Belhaj. It was reported then that his membership had been frozen because of his early call for "jihad." He has a strong relationship with Sa'id Makhloufi, former member of the Shura Council and currently an armed action leader. Kharban, who is a former pilot, left Algeria before the legislative elections held late in 1991. He stayed for a short period in Peshawar (Pakistan) then moved to France, from which he was expelled last year. He confirmed the formation of the Executive Committee to AL-HAYAH over the telephone. He said that its members "are not representatives of various factions and it should be seen not as a unification of independent groups, but, rather, as coordinating and organizational work among those who believe in the Islamic state plan and those who are bound to the FIS and its legitimate leadership." He also said that the committee's members have their previous links with the various parties inside the country, and "we are just unifying action under one leadership to prevent overlapping and duality." He pointed out that Rabih Kebir will be the official spokesman for the committee.

2. 'Abdallah Anas. He is the only member of the Executive Committee who did not experience development of action inside the FIS, as he has lived in Afghanistan, especially in the north, since 1984 and become one of the most Arab mojahedin there. He is very close to former Afghan Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, as he worked with him in Panjsher. However, he was in touch with the Front's leaders, especially Cheik Abassi Madani, with whom he met more than once outside Algeria. Anas possesses high rhetorical and organizational capability. After the mojahedin's victory in Afghanistan he started to move between Kabul, Islamabad, and Paris, from where he was expelled last summer. However, sources close to him emphasize that the French Embassy in Islamabad contacted him to tell him that the French authorities have no objection to his return to Paris. His present place of residence is not declared. He is known to have strong links with Islamic figures in Arab and Islamic states.

3. Anwar Haddam. He currently lives in Chicago, United States. He is a "deputy" who won in the canceled legislative elections in Algeria. Haddam is active in political action, as he visited some political establishments in the United States and this summer he spoke at the European Parliament. He was not exposed to security pressures like those to which Rabih Kebir was exposed, as the latter was arrested in Germany some two months ago and then was released early this month. Haddam represents the FIS "parliamentary committee" abroad. This committee comprises a number of the Front's deputies who succeeded in the canceled elections and were able to get asylum in Western states.

There are other members of the Executive Committee whose names have not been revealed for "security reasons." And it seems that [the announcement] of the four names is designed to encourage the factions leading armed action inside the country to unify their action, especially as they represent various groups, and each of the four has direct links with some or all of the factions.

Four-Man Armed Group Eliminated in Ouled Aissa

LD2809001593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Security services in Bordj Menaiel eliminated an armed group made up of four persons. The members of the group are strangers to the area, and their identities are still unknown. The citizens discovered their presence very easily.

[Unidentified Security Official] On the evening of 26 September we received information from the citizens of Ouled Aissa municipality to the effect that a group of three or four persons, strangers to the area, were hiding in this abandoned house in the small village of (Douar Zfafha), of the named municipality, Ouled Aissa.

Immediately upon receiving this information, we informed our officers where we received the order to carry out an operation on the place, the subject of the information.

On 26 September, we moved to the scene in a small force. When we approached the house, we were met with bullets from the armed group which was inside the house. Then they escaped through the valley close (?to the house).

Thereupon we surrounded the area and pursued the terrorists. Following a clash, which lasted for 10 minutes, the four terrorists were eliminated, and all the weapons that were in their possession were recovered.

The identities of the eliminated terrorists are unknown and they are strangers to the area. [passage omitted]

Results of Agriculture Talks With U.S. Noted

LD2509141793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] The Algerian-American talks now taking place in Washington on Algeria's relations with the IMF have enabled discussion of the dossier of agricultural cooperation. Agreement has been reached on renewing the American line of credits earmarked for agricultural produce to reach $550 million, that is a ten percent increase over last year.

The agreement was signed the day before yesterday. For the United States by the secretary of state for agriculture, and for the Algerian side by the director general for economic relations at the Ministry of the Economy, in the presence of Minister Delegate for Commerce Moustaphe Magraoui. This loan is effective from 1 October and lasts until September 1994.

Moustaphe Magraoui described his visit to Washington as positive, and said that his talks with U.S. officials also dealt with the new investment law in Algeria with the aim of enabling American enterprises to engage in direct investment in the future.

Egypt

Musa Addresses UN on Regional, World Issues

NC2809090593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0413 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Speech by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to the UN General Assembly's 48th session in New York on 27 September—recorded]

[Text] Mr. President: It is fortunate indeed for this session to begin amid a mounting sense of optimism over the current progress to reach a just solution to the Palestinian problem and the steady progress to find an overall solution to the problem in South Africa. On the Israeli-Palestinian track, an important step was taken through the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, which means mutual recognition by the two peoples and mutual acceptance of the idea of coexistence. This opens the door to serious and objective negotiations that will spell an unprecedented chance of finding a just solution to this issue, which has cast shadows on the Middle East, indeed the world, since World War II.

Although it was just a first step toward settlement, what took place will undoubtedly lead to interaction that could positively address the issues of withdrawal, refugees, security, and self-determination, thus achieving a historic and comprehensive settlement for Israel, Palestine, and the Arabs. Perhaps this is the true meaning of the Israeli prime minister's remarks during the signing ceremony in Washington, when he said: Enough. He also said the time has now come for peace. 'Arafat said: The PLO has turned a new page in its relations with Israel. May God have mercy on Anwar al-Sadat, who said: No more wars. Egypt, 16 years ago, penetrated the horizons of the future and overstepped the limits of reality when it announced that wars neither make peace nor settle disputes and that reason and dialogue are the effective methods to overcome problems, no matter how complicated or impossible their solution seems. Consequently, the peace Egypt called for materialized on a firm foundation of respect for international law and balanced mutual commitments that secure justice for all.

If the peace process, which started with the Madrid conference in October 1991, is bearing fruit after arduous efforts, the early gains that we have seen recently, whether on the Palestinian-Israeli or the Jordanian-Israeli tracks, lead us to hope for similar gains soon on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Both parties rightly call for a total withdrawal from their territories within a fully objective framework based on the principle of land for peace. Aspiring to end the legacy of war and hostility, Egypt, which has given its utmost attention to Middle East issues, calls on all the peoples in the region to look forward to the future and contemplate the nature of our relations after the conflict is settled. Egypt calls on them to consider the future and the region's development, achieving the most from the abundant expertise, rich human resources, and precious natural resources spread throughout the region. Egypt calls on them to consider the ideal social contract for our societies in a way that preserves the unique and distinguished characteristics of each society and achieves integration and cohesion among their common elements. Then, social and cultural stability will prevail and the region will see positive and cultural integration in an atmosphere of true peace.

Egypt calls on them to work out a system of relations based on equal security, refusal to use force, balance in armaments, and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction within a clear framework of peaceful relations. Egypt calls on all Middle Eastern countries, particularly Israel, to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to take every step necessary to renounce the possession of, use, or threat to use nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons as a prelude to establishing a zone free of these weapons in the Middle East. President Mubarak proposed this beginning in April 1990. We consider this proposal to be an indispensable condition of stability and security in the Middle East.

Mr. President, the Palestinian-Israeli agreement calls for considerable optimism. There has also been progress in another arena that long constituted a hotbed of serious international and historic tension in South Africa between a people demanding their right to equality and freedom and a regime built on repression and racial segregation. We in Egypt as an African country are pleased to witness such positive developments, primarily the agreement to establish a transitional council to lead the country to democracy and equal rights. This council is formed by representatives of the majority and minority and constitutes the outset of a constitutional transition to a new era. Although there are numerous obstacles and huge challenges, the beginning is encouraging and the developments raise optimism. We cannot deny President de Klerk's role in this progress and we hail leader Mandela and his colleagues' role in turning a new page to a common future.

Mr. President, the 29th African summit convened in Cairo last July. The conference evaluated African action during the 30 years since the OAU was established. The conference issued the Cairo Declaration, which reflected the eventful record of the African people's struggle in the past three decades. It proposed a course for these countries' future to adjust their situation and relations abroad amid successive international developments. The Cairo summit discussions highlighted the options available to the African countries and the challenges they must confront. The African countries are determined to end poverty, starvation, desertification, and debt and to forge ahead toward a comprehensive development and promote their political and economic situation. Despite the various problems besetting the African countries, they demonstrated readiness to shoulder their regional responsibilities. Establishing an African mechanism to resolve disputes is one of the most outstanding resolutions in this respect. The African countries are proposing a new system of international cooperation and shouldering responsibility, despite the difficulties in a falling share of the world's gross product and an increase in their debts. These difficulties crippled the African countries' will and undermined their capabilities. But these problems did not sap their persistence or resolve. The Cairo summit also expressed a firm and decisive position on the inevitable need to effect change in African policies and plans. It is high time difficult decisions were made to bridge the gap between Africa and the modern world, even many Third World countries.

Talk of Africa, Mr. President, leads to a discussion of the events in the Horn of Africa, the consequences of which are directly linked with Middle East and African security in general. In this respect, we salute Eritrea's independence, welcome it as a UN member, and express our deep regret over events in Somalia. Egypt cooperates fully with international law, which has earnestly endeavored to end the famine that has wrecked Somalia and the armed conflicts that have rocked it. It sympathizes with the Somali people's hopes for a secure future based on national reconciliation that does not serve the interests of one individual, leader, or group, but meets the needs of all the Somali people and responds to their hopes and dreams. On taking the chair of the OAU, President Husni Mubarak, coordinating with the UN and OAU general secretaries, sincerely expressed Egypt's interest in seeing the UN resolutions on Somalia implemented, in creating an atmosphere that could help maintain the process of putting this fraternal country on the road to rebuilding its infrastructure, and in enabling its people to clear the debris and unite. This cannot be achieved without an overall national reconciliation that allows every element of the Somali people to have their say and express their opinion without fear or oppression and without being extorted by those hungry for power, who stir up devastation and sabotage. This is the responsibility of the Somali people, who fell prey to tribal disputes and personal ambitions that must be stopped from a national and patriotic perspective before any other.

From Somalia, we move to Angola, where the situation is worsening because of UNITA's [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] disrespect for the majority's voice in free elections. Egypt calls for absolute support of the recent UN resolution based on Chapter Seven of the Charter. The resolution condemns UNITA and calls for ceasing any aid to it until it respects the [word indistinct] agreement, the will of the people, and the UN resolutions.

Mr. President, Africa's problems are not limited to South Africa, the Horn of Africa, or Angola. They reach many African countries, whether in the form of civil war, as in Liberia, which affected the neighboring countries; internal political disputes, as in several African states; development problems and the challenges they present; or the suffering of political progress and its results. Despite all this, I say Africa is preparing with full determination and political will to put all these problems behind it and to embrace the 21st century with confidence, armed with a sense of determination and challenge to be a party to drafting the much needed world order and shaping the new world.

Mr. President, I began my address by reviewing positive developments in international relations, which make us look forward with hope. But other developments and changes have occurred that make many people very concerned and suspicious. This has aroused a major question for intellectuals; what kind of world order do we want? What kind of world order is it the foundations of which are being laid today? Will it merely be an extension, perhaps with new phraseology, of past concepts and policies? Does it reflect the reality, with all its shortcomings, contradictions, and double standards? Or will it be a true and serious development toward the 21st century?

A just peace and overall stability are our primary goals. Without peace and stability, our achievements will remain incomplete. Peace is not a negative or abstract concept, but a conscientious and active endeavor by everyone to manage the planet's collective life, its people, organizations, and constellations in line with values and limitations that we all accept and respect.

Several principles need to be upheld to make peace and stability possible:

First, the principles of international legitimacy should be upheld so that international law may maintain its integrity and prestige.

Second, the principle of equality of rights and obligations should be upheld. We must dissipate the sense of injustice and frustration felt by nations. We must encourage every nation to use its expertise and resources to achieve common and comprehensive goals. We call on everyone to apply the same standards in conducting their international relations, assuming their fair share in regional and international responsibilities, and promoting the interests of every nation.

Third, the same standards must be applied to similar cases. All international resolutions must be implemented without bias or prejudice. International stability and security depend on the international community's ability to reward those who are law-abiding and deter and punish those who break the rules of legitimacy.

Fourth, every nation should enjoy security in the framework of reciprocal and common obligations.

Fifth, the right to development must be upheld. International cooperation must be geared to helping the developing countries, particularly the least developed, to achieve progress.

These principles need to be upheld, for their faithful and effective implementation would boost the principles of international legitimacy and represent a genuine realization of the will of the international community. In contrast, violating these principles would endanger our efforts to forge an international system that is more just and humane; it would also greatly undermine the credibility of such a system.

To be quite frank, Mr. President, the Islamic societies, among others, saw injustice and prejudice in several examples of international policy, such as Bosnia, where elements of contradiction and hesitation were evident.

Much of the concern felt throughout the Islamic world could undoubtedly have been averted had the Bosnian issue been approached in a way that matches the principles ensconced in the UN Charter. The UN Charter addresses such issues as aggression, occupation, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Such crimes have clearly been committed against the people of Bosnia. The nations that saw the Bosnian tragedy unfold will never forget what they saw, namely, the siege being tightened on the people of Bosnia as the international community showed signs of procrastination and weakness in their resolve.

Egypt rejects this obvious failure to uphold the principles of justice, due to which the aggressor has been allowed to reap the rewards of its aggression. Egypt rejects this flagrant violation of human rights.

The international community stood against the Iraqi Government when it attacked Kuwait. Why, then, did it waver when the Serbs attacked Bosnia? We all support drawing a border between Iraq and Kuwait. Why, then, did we give the Serbs the opportunity to expand at the expense of the Bosnian people and their regional rights?

Prolonging the Bosnian problem without any just solution in sight, one that is freely accepted by the Bosnians, harms the credibility of many international policies and developments. Probably the only positive development in Bosnia has been the formation of an international tribune to try war criminals who engaged in ethnic cleansing.

It is our duty to bring to trial all those who called for ethnic cleansing and condoned it. Ethnic cleansing smacks of cultural backwardness and deep-rooted evil.

Mr. President, human rights form one of the principal issues we face. When we deal with human rights of an international dimension and character, we in Egypt view the issue through the perspective of the long history and civilization that forms our national character, through our long history and ancient Egyptian civilization, through our solid Islamic civilization, through the interaction between our civilization and the Mediterranean civilizations, and through the legacy of modern European enlightenment and renaissance, which influenced Egypt's modern thought and philosophy. The essence of this integrated legacy of civilizations asserts man's value and elevates his role in the process of revival and progress and his freedom in the realm of thought and creativity in line with the true principles of Islam. Islam emphasizes man's freedom in society within a framework of values that safeguard tradition and cope with modern progress and that balance right and duty, society and the individual in the context of a meaningful social contract.

Human rights in our view have a basic goal of safeguarding the true interests of man, his family, and homeland and his basic right to life, security, and reassurance. This is the basic goal from which all other rights stem. All these rights are worthy of defense against anyone trying to violate or confiscate them through terror. The various societies stand united against terrorist acts, whether they are initiated to revive racial superiority, express extreme views, carry out ethnic cleaning, or demonstrate religious fanaticism. These theories and practices seriously violate human rights and must be resisted.

Mr. President, based on our firm concern for and sure protection of human rights, primarily man's right to security and life, we realize that genuine democracy is the best guarantee for stability, security, and social peace. We also realize that freedom and political rights, for the individual and groups, will remain incomplete if we do not strengthen them with economic, social, and cultural rights. We believe that the individual and group right to development and economic and social progress are closely associated with their rights to political and cultural progress in general. One of the challenges confronting us is proving our collective ability to effect real changes in the international economic system that go beyond narrow considerations and interests and lead to true international participation in achieving continuing development for all peoples and safeguarding the common environment. Such a major challenge dictates that we voice our views candidly on current international economic developments that concern us.

If we look at the world economy we find it depends on centralized decisions in the industrial nations that directly affect the economies of the developing countries. Recession in the industrial nations leads directly to a recession in the developing nations and an increase in unemployment and poverty. What further complicates the issue is that in their attempt to tackle their economic problems, the rich countries resort to protectionist trade measures that leave the developing nations with no choice, but to plead and hope. Most of the developing nations adopt tough economic reforms under which liberalized trade constitutes a primary source of development. This means depriving these countries of the right to harvest the fruits of their endeavors toward reform and liberalization and obstructing their bid to join the world economy. We see nothing in the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks to assure us for the future. Today, the developing nations stand on the sidelines of secondary deals to which they are not a party. These deals are murky, not transparent, and harm their interests. Events in the past two years have proved that the international monetary system is no better than the trade system. The conflicting goals of the macroeconomic and monetary policies have led to a chaos in the currency market and instability in the world economic system, with everything this entails in terms of harmful results to the economies of the developing nations.

Mr. President, the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro was an important landmark on the road to constructive dialogue between the North and the South that sought to drum up international participation in the face of the dangers threatening our planet. Although some progress was made in implementing the summit resolutions, we still notice a clear variation in perspective between the advanced and developing countries. The advanced nations primarily take an interest in the symptoms of the crisis, which poses a great threat to the patterns of their life and their prosperity, although they themselves have contributed to some of the side effects in the environment. This attitude conflicts with the position of several developing countries, which suffer environmental pollution the responsibility for which they share with others, but the latter [the advanced countries] to a greater extent. Faced with the need to confront the problems of debt, the drop in the price of basic commodities, and the barriers facing their trade, combined with the continuing development process and environmental protection requirements, governments find themselves facing an impasse that leads to a drop in productivity and a decrease in the development rate, thus more poverty. This variation in perspective must eventually lead to obstructing measures to confront the world's environmental problem. So everybody must shoulder their responsibility so that the slogans of mutual interdependence and universal participation can be credible and acceptable.

We would like to address a basic and important element in the equation of achieving development and protecting the environment—the population problem. This problem threatens the two sides of the equation, the results of which are known to us all, in terms of eating up the gains of development and further harming the environment. The world conference on population and development, which Cairo will host in 1994, will provide a good opportunity to tackle the population problems from their sound development perspective and their connection with socioeconomic development issues. We in Egypt, as a host country, will spare no effort to ensure that this important conference will succeed. We are certain its results will chart a suitable framework for international cooperation in population and development.

Mr. President, the economic and social conditions and circumstances of the Third World call for a more general discussion of the political activities of the developing countries, irrespective of their economic systems and stages of development.

This is the right time to reflect upon the collective achievements of these countries and what they need to do to achieve their legitimate objectives. A frank, constructive, and objective view of the situation in the Third World is required.

It is no secret that the challenges facing the developing countries now have altered drastically due to the changed international situations, circumstances, and challenges, all of which have various economic, political, and security ramifications.

In Egypt, we have begun to study this subject. Doing so, we consider the result of the past few decades in terms of the political, economic, and social changes in the Third World. International changes have altered the priorities and goals of Third World countries.

We would like to state a few points:

First, the Third World, or so it is called, represents most of the world's population, is the largest producer of raw materials, and has a wide market. It has a full right to be a full partner in the current process of international change.

Second, for the Third World to be so, it must find a collective political voice, something that can be achieved through democratic dialogue among its countries.

Third, this in turn cannot be achieved except within a political framework or movement embracing all Third World countries.

Fourth, the objective of the Third World should be to hold dialogue, negotiations, and an exchange of opinion leading to cooperation and assistance rather than conflict and collision.

Today, I propose to the developing countries to enter a dialogue that aims to create a forum [tajammu'] for the Third World, one through which developing countries may address various international political, economic, and social issues, coordinate their stances, and decide on the contribution they wish to make toward forming a new international order that would take us into the 21st century.

These developments and the fast-breaking changes in today's world reinforce our belief in the vital role of the United Nations in international relations, a role based on the principles enshrined in its Charter.

Egypt wants to see the United Nations increasingly effective and its credibility reinforced, not eroded. We know of the sizable and unprecedented challenges facing the United Nations, challenges that surfaced on the scene of international relations due to historical circumstances that could not have been foreseen by the UN's founding fathers or those who wrote the UN Charter.

We agree that the fast-breaking changes of the past few years were so drastic that they justified a full revision of the United Nations' mechanisms and structures. Such a task is necessary to preserve the UN's credibility and effectiveness.

I would like to point our that Egypt, a UN founding member, contributed to formulating the UN Charter. Egypt is particularly interested in preserving the UN principles, mission, dignity, and credibility and its role in furthering international peace and security.

It goes without saying that the burdens assumed by the United Nations in the post-Cold War era surpass those it shouldered during the Cold War. If, say, the international community were to agree on the need to make structural changes in the membership of the UN Security Council, Egypt—a country that assumes an effective role within the international system in shaping regional and international relations and in consolidating the principles and values we agreed upon and that participates in peacekeeping operations—has the right and the resources to participate with a full sense of responsibility toward formulating the proposed institutional reorganization [al-tanzim al-mu'assasiy al-muqtarah] for the United Nations. Egypt has the will and the resolve to positively contribute toward formulating standards and values that will be adopted. Egypt believes it has the necessary qualifications to be part of the current discussion and new thinking.

Mr. President, we must open the door to a better future that we should help to formulate. We should create a more just world for the 21st century. This is the right time for collective efforts to be made to formulate a firm and stable new world order. This is the great challenge facing us at a time of unprecedented opportunity. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mubarak on Terrorism, U.S. Ties, National Debt

NC2709161093 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 24 Sep 93 pp 6-17

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad in Alexandria on 19 September]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ahmad] Mr. President. During your first term in office, you took over when Egypt was torn, angry with itself, and seething within. But you bandaged the wounds and succeeded in removing the tension that prevailed. You took Egypt to the stage of a manageable stability, both in economic change and in getting rid of the remnants of the totalitarian regime and replacing it with a regime based on party pluralism.

During your second term, and despite all the efforts in the economic reconstruction sector, such that Egypt almost reached the stage of a surge forward, the terrorists emerged at the last minute and attempted to cut off Egypt's road to progress.

Mr. President. We are—quite sincerely—very perplexed. Will terrorism abate as a result of the security efforts or will it not? We hear conflicting reports. Some are saying that terrorism has abated and is in its death throes, but then new operations are carried out and come as a surprise for us.

[Mubarak] Forget about all this talk. Whoever is talking is doing so from his own viewpoint. But I see the picture clearly. Terrorist operations are taking place all over the world. An Egyptian citizen and an English driver were killed yesterday in Florida, the United States. German tourists were killed before them. The same thing is happening in England and France where they have been compelled to amend their laws so that the security forces can combat terrorism. Read what is happening in Germany, Italy, Turkey, and many other countries that I do not want to mention. Terrorism exists and is present in all countries. We are not the only ones to have this phenomenon. But, thanks be to God, we are in a better position. I tell you very clearly that the abatement of terrorism takes time. Not all of them are Muslims. It is wrong to say that Islam has a role with these groups. The majority of them are killers and professional criminals.

The important observation is that the majority of those committing these crimes are known to the security forces. All of them were detainees. Sentences were passed on them in previous cases but they escaped. More oddly, the whole thing is confined to certain persons who take part in committing the majority of these crimes. Every one of them is accused of perpetrating more than one crime. The problem lies in the funds that they receive from abroad. They are people who have found themselves with unlimited funds they get from these incidents and therefore are driven into these crimes.

[Ahmad] Mr. President. Is the security organ's hand capable of confronting this phenomenon in a way that will enable Egypt to uproot it?

[Mubarak] The security organ's hand is strong. The issue, though, needs more time. But the security control is complete, and these incidents do not scare us. All countries are suffering from waves of terrorism but we are in a much better position than many others.

[Ahmad] Mr. President. There was an idea to form a national front from all the parties to oppose terrorism, especially as the Wafd Party and the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party took a good stand?

[Mubarak] I will tell you something. Some of them asked that the Constitution be changed and some laws be amended in return for their participation in the front. Is this the right priority that Egypt's interest needs? Will the amendment of the Constitution stop terrorism, or will it open a new door for more tension in society as a result of the clash of demands in the absence of a national agreement because each party wants a Constitution to its liking?

There are countries that have no constitutions or respectable laws, yet terrorism exists in them. There are countries that have respectable constitutions and good elections, and yet they are suffering from the problems of terrorism.

There is nothing that links this to that because terrorism is a wave affecting most countries in the world, regardless of the system of rule.

Our problem in Egypt is that whenever we want to open a door for dialogue, cooperation, or coordination, up come those who want to raise the ante as if the matter does not concern the homeland's supreme interests. I tell you once again that I have no personal interest in amending any law other than that of the homeland because I see the complete picture. In the end, I am the one responsible before these people. If I listen to these demands without scrutinizing and checking them and without an accurate calculation of the dangers that this homeland might face, then this might lead to rifts and collapse. Then everyone will say: We were just expressing our view but you are the decision-maker, why did you go along with what is wrong. In this case, I will be responsible before the people, and the people will hold me responsible because I made the decision.

Every individual has the right to voice his opinion as he likes. It is my duty to listen to everyone, follow up the situation, examine the internal and external conditions, and then draw up the right priorities in light of an integrated assessment of the factors of the situation. Since the people have placed their trust in me, then I must exercise the responsibility, but this does not mean that I make decisions unilaterally.

[Ahmad] Mr. President, is it not strange that Sudan, which was one of the sources of threats to Egyptian security in view of its being the conduit for terrorists, comes today to ask for Egypt's help in convincing the United States that it is not a terrorist country?

[Mubarak] I do not want to talk much about Sudan because it is a neighboring country. This is our fate. We repeatedly warned the brothers there. The atmosphere is now calming down, and I believe that they understand our position very clearly.

[Ahmad] Mr. President, are the borders secure now, and are they not being used by the terrorist groups?

[Mubarak] The borders are secure and safe, and there is strict control on our part. But this does not prevent some individuals from crossing over through the desert.

[Ahmad] Mr. President, several months ago the U.S. position on the issue of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman caused a semi-crisis in U.S.-Egyptian relations.

[Mubarak] Matters did not reach the point of a crisis. A sort of confusion and misunderstanding took place, and foreign media treatment of the issue aggravated the situation.

Once I granted an interview to an American newspaper that changed the meaning of what I said, angering many departments in the Clinton administration. This was before I made my recent visit to the United States.

These departments understood that I had accused the U.S. Administration of colluding with terrorism, although the truth was different.

[Ahmad] Mr. President, the matter pertained to a warning that Egypt sent to the United States regarding the dangers of such groups.

[Mubarak] The interview was distorted by the newspaper. The truth is that I said: Beware of the issue of terrorism, because it is not that simple. Watch out. As to whether I knew in advance about the explosions in New York, I had no idea. The whole issue was tantamount to a summer cloud in the sky of Egyptian-U.S. relations.

[Ahmad] Mr. President, such a distortion may have caused this cloud in the relations between the two countries. But actually, it later transpired that the warning was correct. Explosions did take place in New York. This confirmed that you were talking about something real.

[Mubarak] I leave this matter to U.S. evaluation. They know what is happening. But our relations with the United States are good and special. Perhaps there was some sort of confusion and misunderstanding, but it was a passing summer cloud, as I said.

[Ahmad] Mr. President, you cooperated with the Bush administration, and before that with the Reagan administration. Now, Mr. President, you are dealing with the Clinton administration. What is your assessment of Egyptian-U.S. relations, or at least of the three administrations' enthusiasm on the issue of stability and security in the Middle East and regarding the desire to assist Egypt to accomplish its economic reform?

[Mubarak] We had more than special relations with the Bush administration.

[Ahmad] Mr. President, is this due to the fact that George Bush was fully aware of the dimensions of the Middle East problem and that you have been friends since you were vice president?

[Mubarak] Yes. We also maintain good relations with the present administration. I expect there will be further cooperation. President Clinton is actually very cooperative, and I have contacted him more than once. Of course, any new administration will need some time to get acquainted with our problems. But I have found the Clinton administration to be very understanding.

[Ahmad] Mr. President, can we say that that passing cloud has completely disappeared?

[Mubarak] Yes, it has completely disappeared.

[Ahmad] Mr. President, I have a frank question on the work of government officials' sons in private business. Doesn't this practice require us to lay down some restrictions and controls, although the ministers' sons may have the legal right to work as others do?

[Mubarak] I have no sons working in business [preceding word in English]. I have a son working at a London bank, and the other one has a plot of land that he cultivates, and he works in some small activities that have nothing to do with any official or government agency. As far as I am concerned, this latter practice is taboo. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Mr. President, there have been some rumors recently about a special role actually played by the president's son who works at a London bank, in buying Egypt's debts.

[Mubarak] It is not a rumor; my son Jamal did, in fact, participate as one of the delegation members of the bank in which he works, in negotiations that took place between China and the bank to buy an old Egyptian debt worth $180 million.

The bank has relations with China and made an offer to the Chinese Government to buy this old debt with a huge reduction in percentage rate, in order to sell it to Egyptian individuals. When the bank asked my son to go [to China]—not because he is President Mubarak's son, but because he works in the investment department responsible for this action—Jamal asked me: Shall I participate in the negotiating delegation?

My reply was "Why not?" It is a national service. He did go and held negotiations along with his colleagues with the Chinese Government on the purchase of the $180-million debt. They bought it for half of the amount or for a little more in the bank's favor. According to the bank's account, Jamal showed great skill in negotiating, for which he earned a bonus from the bank. They gave him $90,000, after deducting the interest, and gave his boss $300,000.

[Ahmad] Mr. President, what does the bank do with this debt which it bought?

[Mubarak] It resells it to Egyptian individuals with the Egyptian Central Bank's consent, with interest or commission. The Central Bank encourages such action because it helps Egypt get rid of some of its debts, because these debts are usually bought for half of their values. The Egyptian Central Bank sets the conditions and controls the implementation.

I will tell you a strange story: A businessman went to London to buy a share of this debt with the Egyptian Central Bank's consent. He asked for my son Jamal, thinking that he might be able to help, and Jamal's reply was clear. He said: All I did in this affair was to participate in the delegation negotiating with the Chinese Government. As for the resale of debts to Egyptians, this is not within my jurisdiction, and I have nothing to do with it.

[Ahmad] Mr. President, what is the volume of the Egyptian debts that have been sold this way to Egyptian nationals who bought these debts from foreign banks? Because the figure mentioned on Egyptian streets, 20 billion [currency unspecified], is incredible.

[Mubarak] I do not believe the figure exceeds one billion dollars at the highest estimate, and I will now ask the Central Bank governor. However, the debt to China did not exceed $180 million, and we asked the Chinese Government to reduce it by 50 percent, but the Chinese Government refused.

(The president asked his office to contact Central Bank Governor Dr. Salah Hamid. In reply to the president's question, Dr. Hamid said that the total of Egyptian debts that have been offered for sale this way did not exceed $1.1 billion, all of which was sold, with the exception of $300 million sold by Egyptians with the Egyptian Central Bank's consent and supervision.) [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Mr. President, the Israelis have had doubts about their tepid peace with Egypt while the latter stressed that peace with Israel will remain tepid if no tangible and clear progress is made toward the comprehensive settlement. Mr. President, are there any signals that Egyptian-Israeli relations could become warmer in view of the progress made toward the comprehensive settlement?

[Mubarak] We are open to the establishment of normal relations with Israel based on evenhanded cooperation. We are not governed by past complexes because we are self-confident and we fear nothing because there is nothing to scare us. I believe that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the expected Syrian-Israeli one will open the doors for the establishment of firm peace relations between the peoples of the region.

[Ahmad] Mr. President. Some believe that the coming peace could be at Egypt's expense because it could affect its pan-Arab role. Also, a settlement of the Palestinian issue could weaken pan-Arab ties because this issue was one of the most important elements of Arab cohesion and solidarity.

[Mubarak] It is a difficult question because the future hinges on the Arabs' ability to play an effective role that protects their Arab solidarity and national rights. While confident that no one can usurp Egypt's role or belittle its status, I ask all the Arab countries to underline their solidarity and cooperation and to realize that more ties of cooperation with Egypt are the best guarantee for the future.

[Ahmad] Mr. President, isn't it strange for the efforts to restore Arab solidarity to stall when an Arab-Israeli reconciliation is under way?

[Mubarak] I believe that we are moving along the road to restoring Arab solidarity. True, we are still facing some difficulties, but the situation is now better. There is a growing acceptance of reestablishing ties with the PLO and there is also a growing acceptance of new relations with Yemen and Jordan. But the situation with regard to Iraq remains difficult, as Saddam is still in power. This will require more time because we cannot ask those whose country was occupied to forget what happened.

[Ahmad] Mr. President, Europe and the United States are propagating a new Middle East market that reflects the change that could occur in regional relations following the establishment of the comprehensive peace with Israel.

[Mubarak] I do not believe there is any contradiction between Egypt's pan-Arab role and its regional one. I do not believe there is any contradiction between the Arab market and the Middle East one. The whole issue hinges on our ability to achieve common coordination and a more effective Arab position through the Arab League, which will continue to play its pan-Arab role.

The most we fear is if we fail to understand the elements of the whole picture, be governed by the residues of old ideas, and that some of us continue with their quixotic stands that do not go beyond words and hence lose clarity of vision and reduce our effective role.

[Ahmad] You received earlier a delegation from the Israeli Labor Party youth. What did you tell them?

[Mubarak] I stressed to them the importance of the peace process for all the parties, both the Arabs and the Israelis. I asked them at the end of the meeting to greet Shamir, but they burst out laughing.

[Ahmad] Mr. President, I thank you for all the time you have given to AL-MUSAWWAR, and I wish you further success.

Mubarak Discusses Israeli-Syrian Agreement

NC2809071393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has said that once Syria agrees to sign a peace agreement with the Israelis, the Lebanese problem will be solved; there will no longer be any reason for [non-Lebanese] forces to remain in Lebanon.

In an interview with the U.S. television network NBC, Mubarak said the Israelis should withdraw their forces from Lebanon to the Israeli border and the Lebanese Government should take all the necessary security measures. The two sides, Mubarak said, should pledge not to fire rockets at each other.

Asked if the PLO can enforce law and order in Gaza and Jericho, Mubarak said that if the PLO organizes a well-trained police force, it can control the situation satisfactorily.

Mubarak was asked whether he is concerned that Egypt's strategic importance will diminish because Israel made peace with the Palestinians, who, in turn, are speaking with other Arab countries. Mubarak replied: I don't think so. Egypt is the largest Arab country in the region and will never lose its pivotal and vital role. Egypt is a Muslim country and so are all the Middle East countries, Mubarak stated.

[In a related report carried within its press review, Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic at 0335 GMT on 28 September adds the following: "AL-AHRAM today headlines Mubarak's remarks to the U.S. television network NBC on its front page. The newspaper cites Mubarak saying that Syria has agreed to sign a peace agreement with Israel. Mubarak said he believes Syria may recognize Israel, but such a decision will take time. The newspaper cites Mubarak saying that with the signing of a peace agreement between Syria and Israel, Lebanon's problem will be solved, because there will no longer be a reason for another country to have forces in Lebanon. Syrian forces will withdraw, Mubarak stated."]

Mubarak Remarks on Withdrawal From Golan Clarified

NC2709122393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1134 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—A responsible source has denied recent media reports regarding President Mubarak's remarks in his joint news conference with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on 22 September. The reports cited President Mubarak saying that Israel agrees to withdraw from the Golan.

In a statement today, the source described the reports citing President Mubarak's remarks as completely inaccurate. The source pointed out that answering a reporter's question during the news conference, President Mubarak said: I do not want to tell you Israel said it (agreed to withdraw), but I can say that to reach a comprehensive settlement and achieve peace, the Golan Heights must be returned to Syria.

The media representatives who attended the news conference cited President Mubarak's remarks as he made them at the time.

Al-Jihad's al-Zumur Interviewed From Prison

NC2709205593 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Sep 93 p 4

[Interview with 'Abbud al-Zumur, leading al-Jihad Organization figure, by AL-SHA'B correspondent Ahmad al-Suyufi, in an Egyptian jail; date not given]

[Text] It is time to defuse the bomb and halt the violence and counterviolence. Dialogue is indispensable. Negotiation is necessary for our country's, homeland's, and nation's good. I do not suppose that a mad man, or even a sane one, can come and tell us that there should be no dialogue with murderers, particularly following Gaza-Jericho, that is, following the negotiations with and the embrace of the real murderers. Is it reasonable for negotiations with the Dayr Yasin, Sabra, and Shatila slaughterers to be allowed while dialogue with these young men is not? Proceeding from its sense of responsibility for this country's security, wellbeing, and economy, AL-SHA'B decided to plunge into this experience, walk on the thorns, and seek contact with all parties in order to restore sober, civilized dialogue, and examine and discuss causes and effects. We have decided to begin our dialogue with the leaders lying behind prison walls to ask them their views on why violence and tension are on the rise. Although we disagree with some of the remarks included in this dialogue with 'Abbud al-Zumur, we are publishing it in full.

[Al-Suyufi] What is your position regarding the current escalation of violence and counterviolence?

[Al-Zumur] May God be praised. God's prayers and peace be on His prophet. The current state of mutual escalating hostilities is caused by the ruling regime's intransigence and its insistence on its decisions and on exterminating the Islamists, beginning with those posing the greatest threat to it. Consequently, we reject the various forms of official violence. The most recent form has been the referral of cases to military courts that have unjustly and with hostile intent shed the blood of dozens of our brothers. In my opinion, counterviolence is actually a reaction to the authorities' excesses and their disregard for constitutional provisions, laws, and human rights. If the act stops, the reaction will stop. It is astonishing that the Egyptian regime always follows the closed road and fails to discover this until it collides with the wall.

[Al-Suyufi] Some people say that strong deterrent measures against those who carry out combat operations, including trial by military courts, will eventually decide the issue and cause the wave of violence to ebb. What do you think?

[Al-Zumur] These are irresponsible government opinions that fail to understand the country's public interest. Actual results prove the contrary. Have the military courts stopped the reaction? Certainly not. A combat operation was carried out in [Cairo's] Zaynuhum area against a military judge. Indeed, this escalation reached the point of martyrdom [suicide] operations like the operation against the interior minister in al-Shaykh Rayhan Street. It was an act of self-sacrifice by major explosion. It was operations like this that forced the United States and France to leave Lebanon. Does this show that the wave is ebbing?

[Al-Suyufi] Can we call what is happening a feud between the Islamists and the ruling regime? Or is it a method of a call to the faith?

[Al-Zumur] We certainly cannot call what is happening a feud in the accepted sense. Nevertheless, what is happening is a defense of the cause of religion, a defense of the blood that is being shed, the bodies that are being torn, and detainees who have been in jail for many years despite the existence of court verdicts in their favor. What is happening is a defense of the call to the faith that has been confiscated and constitutional public rights that have been usurped. We might possibly show tolerance against excesses against our own persons and rights but no Muslim can make concessions where religion is concerned.

[Al-Suyufi] The Islamists have claimed responsibility for hunting down policemen. How true is this?

[Al-Zumur] An examination of the status of the personalities who "have been assassinated or with whom engagements have taken place" will show that most of them were involved in the physical liquidation of some brothers at times of arrest or in other very serious acts of repression. Anyone who examines the facts will find that the targeted policemen belong to a particular group who committed a crime that deserved such a method of confrontation. All former interior ministers were the targets of assassination attempts although some were retired. This is because of the excesses they perpetrated during their tenures. One exception is Major General Ahmad Rushdi who was not targeted because his excesses did not reach the level mentioned above.

[Al-Zumur] Some indiscriminate explosions happened causing many civilian causalities, such as the one outside al-Khazindar Mosque, and the government still accuses you of these explosions. What is the truth?

[Al-Suyufi] This act could not be committed by any Islamic group. Combat organizations do not strike the Muslim nation because they are the ones who seek to rescue this nation from the yoke of the secular regime. They also seek to bring happiness to the masses in this world by establishing shari'ah and in the world hereafter by delivering them from fire.

I assert that the Egyptian people are our kinsfolk and we like what is good for them and hope they will live safe and secure. We would not think for one moment to terrify them.

It is the ruling regime that should be asked about these incidents. We want the regime to tell us about Khalid Bulus' statements in the prosecution reports in which he admitted that a pro-Western crusader organization was behind the random explosions. He was treated at a mental hospital and they released him to be killed a few days later by a bullet in the head to lower the curtain on these explosions and keep the fingers of accusation pointing to the Islamic groups.

The lying government media do not hesitate to level charges against Islamists to ruin their ties with the masses, but this will be revealed one day.

[Al-Suyufi] What do you think of the reconciliation committee and its role? Do you imagine that the crisis would have been ended had the committee succeeded in its task?

[Al-Zumur] It was a good gesture by a group of ulema and intellectuals who decided to intervene to stop the ongoing battle. But the regime's misjudgment of matters and the feelings of vainglory and pomp that we only see against the people of this country are what ruined the efforts to find a solution. We, the prisoners, could have intervened through mediation to contain the situation in cooperation with the reconciliation committee, but the Egyptian regime rushed to implement martial law, thinking that it was a firm measure against which the mujahidin would retreat.

What is regrettable is that the political decision makers know noting about dealing with Islamic movements and are unaware of the Islamic upsurge that grows violent with the opposite side's escalation. This led to a sudden development of the fighting techniques. Instead of the mujahidin member being driven to the scaffold under a military court ruling for belonging to an organization or carrying out a limited operation with traditional weapons and which might not succeed, it is better for him to die in exploding cars to ensure that the mission is carried out and as means of sacrifice on the battleground, not inside the execution chamber. This is the outcome of the new repressive policy and the nominal military courts.

[Al-Suyufi] If we were to believe that the current acts of violence are some kind of crisis, how can this crisis be ended?

[Al-Zumur] I imagine that the issue is becoming more complex everyday. Things were easy when the mediation committee intervened. But now that many of our brothers have fallen at the scaffolds, it has become difficult to persuade active leaders on the ground to halt the operations. This is especially true because they are overwhelmed by feelings of exasperation and anger on the one hand, and because the sense of achieved successes and the open way to martyrdom tempt them to continue on the other hand.

The proper way out of this crisis is in the hands of the ruling regime; the Constitution must be changed before the presidential elections to provide an opportunity to elect a new leadership by direct popular vote.

[Al-Suyufi] How do you view the coincidence of placing Sudan on the list of countries sponsoring terrorism and the indictment of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman for inciting terrorist attacks?

[Al-Zumur] I have only one explanation for this. The United States is implementing a plot in the region and is seeking to tighten the noose around Sudan to bring down the Islamic regime there.

Also, its confrontation of Dr. 'Umar is a grave strategic mistake. By doing so, the United States will have sacrificed its interests in the Islamic region which, "God willing," will soon come under a torrential Islamic tide. The U.S. experience in dealing with the Middle East seems very weak, in addition to its failure to learn from previous situations, such as its experience with Iran.

I implore God to save us from the ills of our enemies and grant us success in the service of Islam and Muslims. Our final prayer is: Thanks be to Almighty God and may God's prayer and salutation be to our honest Prophet Muhammad.

Papers Note Significance of Agreement With IMF

NC2309110693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 23 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR highlights a statement by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, that Egypt will receive $12 billion in three years, or $4 billion per year, according to the agreement on the second stage of the economic reform program, and that the greater part of this figure will be in the form of grants and easy-term loans designed to increase the rate of development, production, and exports, raise the standard of living, and increase job opportunities.

Commenting on this report, AL-AHRAM says: The IMF board of directors has unanimously approved the second stage of the Egyptian economic reform program that went into effect two days ago and will continue for three years until 1996. According to this agreement, 15 percent of Egypt's overall debts will be dropped. Another 20 percent will be dropped next July. Egypt will also have the right to borrow up to $568 million from the fund if it desires.

The paper points out that the statement issued by the IMF board of directors indicated that during the first stage of the economic reform program Egypt was able to provide an atmosphere of economic stability by reducing the trade deficit and pursuing a rational borrowing policy.

Concluding its article, the paper says: The economic reform program will allow improvement of production quality, thus making it possible to open new export markets. The program provides a number of guarantees through the social fund for low-income groups who might be affected by the liberalization of prices. These include compensation, retraining, and loans to individuals to encourage them to launch new projects. This program is not a luxury, but a necessity to conform with the developments of this age. As President Mubarak has said, had it not been for the economic reform program, our situation would now be similar to other countries whose conditions have deteriorated because they suddenly shifted from a totalitarian system to a capitalist system without implementing a gradual economic reform program.

Libya

Lockerbie Suspects' Lawyer Discusses Trial Site

NC2709200393 Paris AFP in English 1857 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Tripoli, Sept 27 (AFP)—The Libyan lawyer for two men wanted in connection with the 1988 Lockerbie bombing said Monday [27 September] that no country had been ruled out as the possible site for a trial.

"No country has been ruled out," Ibrahim Legwell said, "on the condition that it can provide judicial guarantees of a fair trial."

Legwell had previously demanded that a trial of the Lockerbie suspects be held in a "neutral third country," preferably an Arab or Mediterranean nation or Switzerland.

But Swiss judicial authorities ruled out Monday holding the trial there, with a spokesman for the federal justice department in Bern saying it was "not be considered."

The Swiss news agency ATS quoted spokesman Viktor Schlump as saying that the two suspects would be arrested and extradited to any country that wanted to try them if they arrived in Switzerland.

Libya has repeatedly refused U.S. and British demands that 'Abd- al-Basit 'Ali Muhammad al-Mijrahi and al-Amin Khalifah Fahimah be extradited to face trial for the December 1988 bombing of a Pan Am plane over Lockerbie, Scotland in which 270 people died.

Legwell also said Libya had received generally "encouraging" responses from U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to a set of questions about how an eventual trial would be handled.

"Certain points still need clarification," he added.

Because of its refusal to extradite the pair to either Britain or the United States, both of which have indictments pending, by a deadline of October 1, Libya could face new U.N. sanctions.

Air traffic, arms and diplomatic sanctions were already imposed on Tripoli in April 1992.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message from King Hassan

LD2609205093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received brother Abdelhadi Boutaleb, special envoy of Morocco's sovereign King Hassan II.

The envoy handed a written message from King Hassan II to the brother leader of the revolution, which contains a reiteration of the stance and solidarity of fraternal

Morocco with the Great Jamahiriyah in facing the mandatory measures imposed on it as a result of the groundless Resolution 748. The message also contains a number of issues of common interest.

JANA Editor Greets U.S. Base Closures

LD2409153893 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Washington 24 al-Fatih [September] Jamahariya News Agency—Congress announced that 130 bases will be closed. CNN reported that Congress also agreed to review the future of other bases throughout the world.

JANA's international affairs editor welcomed these steps towards disarmament and demilitarisation to save the world from the weapons of mass destruction and foreign military presence.

He said that the leader of the revolution has repeatedly called for the withdrawal of the foreign forces and the abolition of American military bases abroad.

The leader also called for the withdrawal of American fleets from the Mediterranean and the closure of American bases in Europe. The money spent on these bases should be used to create jobs for 12 million American citizens in the interests of peace and stability in the Mediterranean and throughout the world.

The editor added that Libya submitted proposals to the current session of UN's General Assembly for a comprehensive solution to the problems vexing the human conscience. The abolition of all foreign military bases and foreign armies was advocated in accordance with a fixed timetable for the elimination of all forms of terror which threaten the future of humanity.

Sudan

Envoy To Meet With Former President Carter

EA2709202993 Khartoum SUNA in English at 0935 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Sep—Minister of Federal Rule Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj announced that a Sudanese envoy would leave for the United States to meet former U.S. President Jimmy Carter on peace issue in the Sudan, pointing out that the chairman of the RCC [Revolutionary Command Council], General 'Umar al-Bashir, has recently sent a message to President Carter in this connection. The general atmosphere in America was hostile to Sudan because of Sudan's Islamic orientations, Dr al-Hajj stated in an interview with the Qatari daily AL-RAYAH. He added that the RCC chairman would dispatch envoys to the heads of the four-member committtee which includes Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda to discuss with them recent developments and means of coordination to reach peace in Sudan.

Dr al-Hajj confirmed the Sudanese Government's keenness to realise peace in the Sudan, describing the fighting in the Upper Nile as a war not between the rebels and the government but a tribal one.

RCC Official Welcomes Moi Initiative on Peace Talks

EA2609162493 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Major General al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has lauded the contacts embarked on by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi in the context of the quadripartite initiative of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development states to bring about a peaceful solution to the problem of the south. Maj. Gen. al-Tijani said Sudan's welcoming of the quadripartite initiative did not reduce the importance of the internal dialogue, which had proceeded at a considerable pace between the government and the unified faction. His Excellency said that what was strengthening Sudan's position regarding the internal and external negotiations were the resolutions adopted by the national peace dialogue conference, noting that if a peace agreement were to be concluded within that framework it would be a true expression of the Sudanese nation's consensus.

Maj. Gen. al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir described the internal negotiations as a bold patriotic step expressing recognition of the pressing need to solve national problems within a single family. He added that the four states promoting the new initiative expressed the joint recognition by the states of the region of the importance of solving internal disputes in the interests of the security, stability, and development of the whole region. He said the recognition by these states of the need to solve the problem of the south afforded their mediation great importance and made it more likely that their efforts would succeed.

Blockade of Aid Operations Denied

EA2609155693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Sep (SUNA)—Director of technical and economic cooperation department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Yusuf Mukhtar has confirmed that the government was committed to transporting relief to all the affected people in southern Sudan. He denied allegations by some relief organisations that Sudan hindered relief operation from Uganda to south Sudan.

He added that some foreign organisations working in relief operations have violated the agreements concluded with Sudan Government. Yusuf Mukhtar accused the outlaws movement of impeding relief operations in the south adding that the Sudan Government's relief transportation was implemented within the context of the agreement signed by Vieri Traxler, the UN special envoy to Sudan for humanitarian affairs, who visited Sudan recently.

He reiterated that [the] Sudan Government has no reservation towards the transport of relief to the needy people in the south.

Army General Command Retires 5 Provincial Governors

PM2409123393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Sep 93 pp 1, 4

['Umar Muhammad al-Hasan and Ahmad 'Uthman Jibril report: "Khartoum: Five Military Governors Pensioned Off in Army"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum—The Sudanese Army's General Command has discharged from military service and pensioned off five provincial governors in a step within the framework of the measures to transfer power to civilians which Sudanese authorities have begun to implement recently.

The decision includes Major General Muhammad 'Uthman Muhammad Sa'id, governor of Khartoum; Maj. Gen. Sayyid 'Abd-al-Karim al-Husayni, governor of Kordofan; Brigadier al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr, governor of Darfur; Brig. al-'Awad Muhammad al-Hasan, governor of Central Province; and Brig. al-Jili Ahmad al-Sharif, governor of Eastern Province. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Ministers Deny Plans for Service Taxes

LD2209201493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1058 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 22 Sep (KUNA)—Today, the ministers of religious trusts, oil, finance, and planning denied reports that have been circulating lately in the local press about the government's intention to impose duties on health, electricity, and transport services, and to raise oil prices.

In a statement to KUNA, Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli said that the International Monetary Fund's report, that was presented to the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Council of Ministers, included recommendations and proposals to impose duties on government services and to lift subsidies on some foodstuff goods and oil. He stressed that this is still under study, and that there is no intention now to increase oil prices.

In press statements published last Monday, Nasir al-Rawdan, the second deputy prime minister and minister of finance and planning, declared that the study and conceptions, presented by the IMF on the state public budget, "remains merely an idea to [help] solve an existing problem."

He added: "The government has no intention of raising fuel prices, nor has it thought of it or studied it."

In a statement to KUNA, Jam'an al-'Atmi, the minister of religious trusts and Islamic affairs, said that imposition of duties on government services is out of the question, stressing that all that has been circulating lately on this subject is still under discussion and consideration. He pointed out that this issue will not be settled conclusively, only after being studied and with coordination with the National Assembly in its second term. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Bank Governor on PLO Accord, Economic Support

TA2709130593 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Sep 93 pp 1, 15

[Report from Washington by Sever Plotzker]

[Text] Shaykh Hamad al-Sayyari, the Saudi Monetary Agency governor, yesterday expressed great satisfaction with the Knesset resolution to endorse the Israeli-PLO declaration of principles. He said that it is most important "not to lose the momentum" in Israel's relations with the Arab countries.

The Saudi governor made these remarks in a meeting with Professor Ya'aqov Frenkel, Bank of Israel governor, at the IMF and World Bank conference in Washington, and he reiterated them to YEDI'OT AHARONOT. The low-set, genial Saudi governor heads Saudi Arabia's central monetary agency. Replying to a question, he said: "All the sides should now maintain the peace momentum. Comprehensive and sweeping peace should now be the goal."

He refused to reply to questions pertaining to his country's possible contribution to the Palestinian economy and his ties with Israel; both issues were discussed in his conversation with the Bank of Israel governor. The Saudi governor said, however: "The difficulties obstructing economic cooperation are still numerous, the problems have not been sufficiently clarified, and everyone—including you Israelis—must be very patient."

Contrary to the Saudi governor, the Saudi finance minister, Shaykh Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, avoided any contact with Israelis. Members of Arab delegations to the conference told me yesterday that the Saudis were going to maintain an "aloof and chilly" attitude toward the Israel-PLO arrangement as long as what they termed "the question of Jerusalem" remained unresolved. As far as is known, Saudi Arabia will not pledge any significant sums of money to the Palestinian economy, and its participation in the "donors conference" in Washington next Monday will be ceremonial rather than practical.

In talks with me, Saudi advisers categorically denied the possibility that their finance minister might meet for a private talk with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat when the latter arrives in Washington on Tuesday.

The governor of the Bank of Israel, who has been attending the IMF conference since the eve of Yom Kippur, held a working conversation with the Jordanian central bank deputy governor. Their talk consisted of a preliminary discussion of currency arrangements and bank controls under autonomy.

Discernible reservations about meeting and conversing with Israel have been expressed by the Lebanese delegates, too. The deputy governor of the Lebanese central bank, who is also an economics professor at the University of Chicago, said: "We should not be hasty or take shortcuts. Peace depends on the resolution of many economic plights, which is a long-term process."

Yemen

Salih Receives Jordanian Court Chief, King's Letter

JN2509143793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received Khalid al-Karaki, chief of Jordan's Royal Hashemite Court and envoy of His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Al-Karaki conveyed to the brother president a letter from his brother His Majesty King Husayn dealing with sisterly bilateral relations and ways to enhance them. The letter also deals with issues and developments of interest to our Arab nation, led by the efforts to restore Arab solidarity, developments of the regional peace process, and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. It also deals with consultations and exchanges of views on issues and developments of concern to the close sisterly relations and joint cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Al-Karaki conveyed King Husayn's congratulations to the brother president, the Presidential Council members, the government, and our Yemeni people on the Yemeni revolution's holidays: The 31st anniversary of the 26 September revolution, and the 30th anniversary of the 14 October revolution. He also conveyed King Husayn's wishes for continued progress to our people under the march of unity and democracy.

President Salih asked the Jordanian envoy to convey his greetings to His Majesty King Husayn and his wishes of further prosperity to the fraternal Jordanian people. The president lauded the close sisterly relations between the two fraternal countries, and affirmed his concern for promoting them in a way that will embody both the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples and the objectives of our Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Ali Muhammad al-Ansi, head of the Presidential Council office; and 'Ali 'Abdallah Abu-al-Luhum, our country's ambassador to Jordan. The Jordanian envoy arrived in Sanaa this morning.

Salih Discusses Gulf Ties, Palestinians, Democracy

NC2809064993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1417 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has affirmed his country's wish to establish very close ties with Egypt both on the official and popular levels. He said there are numerous opportunities to boost these ties, promote cooperation, and organize mutual interests to a very advanced degree.

In an interview published today by the weekly newspaper AL-'ARABI, mouthpiece of the Nassirist Arab Democratic Party, the Yemeni president praised the contributions of Egyptian teachers, experts, and technicians to Yemen's economic development. He said this has boosted the triumph of the Yemeni revolution which was also defended by the Egyptian Army at the time.

Salih noted that the Yemeni people constantly express their gratitude and appreciation for this Egyptian role which is no less important than the role of soldiers defending the Yemeni revolution in the past.

Commenting on Yemeni-Gulf relations, the Yemeni president said he believes that these relations are better than they were during the Gulf crisis, which had its effect on those ties. He remarked that Yemen's position during the crisis was misunderstood. President Salih called for closing this dark chapter and turning over a new leaf in Yemeni-Gulf relations in particular and inter-Arab relations in general. He referred to the current ties with Oman and the conclusion of the Yemeni-Omani border agreement, saying that fraternal ties on both sides made it possible to establish further positive cooperation for the benefit of the two fraternal nations.

On his country's position on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, the Yemeni president said Yemen backs any choice that the Palestinians make to solve their just cause to guarantee a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

He said he is willing to play host to a meeting that brings together the various Palestinian factions to conduct a dialogue aimed at uniting Palestinian positions regarding new events in order to avert any harmful Palestinian infighting.

Commenting on Yemeni unity, Salih affirmed that it is solid and that the Yemeni people will preserve it because it is their destiny. He pointed out that the errors of democracy in Yemen remain less damaging that the total absence of democracy and said that the errors can be rectified by more democracy.

He announced: We are not afraid of democracy. Indeed, we fear its absence because it is a civilized system and the only national option for the Yemeni people to run their affairs, build a modern state, and attain progress.

Asked about economic conditions in Yemen, Salih said that his country suffered considerable loss as a result of the Gulf crisis, including the return of more than a million expatriates. He added that the new Yemeni state also had to shoulder additional burdens entailed by the process of reorganizing the status of the employees and departments of the two former Yemeni states. This, he said, had an adverse effect on the economy. He noted, however, that the Yemeni people are facing this with endurance and steadfastness.

United Arab Emirates

Minister Replies to Iranian Moves on Gulf Islands

PM2709121593 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 20-26 Sep 93 pp 11-12

[Unattributed report: "Hamdan Bin-Zayid Tells AL-WASAT: There Would Be No Alternative Other Than the United Nations If Iran Rejects Direct Negotiations"]

[Excerpts] Abu-Dhabi—It is now up to Iran to stop the escalation over the issue of the three United Arab Emirates [UAE] islands it is occupying and to prevent the issue reaching the United Nations, which would certainly cause tension in relations between that Islamic republic and its Gulf Cooperation Council states.

The latest development related to that issue, which first emerged in April 1992 when Iran unilaterally revoked the memorandum of understanding reached between it and the UAE regarding the island of Abu-Musa, was the cancellation by Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, of his scheduled visit to Tehran last week after an Iranian official preempted the visit with statements emphasizing that the islands of Abu-Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra "are Iranian and will remain Iranian" islands. [passage omitted]

AL-WASAT has asked Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid if, after the cancellation of his visit to Iran, he believed that finding a solution to the problem of the three islands through direct negotiations with Tehran was now impossible, what steps the UAE intended to take in the near future, and whether it intended to go to the International Court of Justice or the United Nations. He replied: "The UAE has on various occasions expressed a desire to hold direct negotiations with the Iranian Islamic Republic to discuss the dispute over the three islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu-Musa. We believe that the proposed negotiations should be confined to that dispute only. That is our position. Now Iran holds the key to the negotiations. We proceed on the basis that, as an Islamic state and neighbor of Iran, we see no need for the intervention of a third party. This is an issue between us and our neighbor, Iran. If it responds to this wish then we would be willing to visit Tehran and discuss the issue of the three islands, otherwise we would have no alternative but to go to the United Nations and other bodies."

AL-WASAT asked him: Has the Arab Gulf states' fear of Iran's armament program made it more difficult to reach a settlement with Tehran on the issue of the islands? How do you view this matter?

He replied: "Every state is entitled to take whatever measures it deems fit to safeguard its sovereignty and security. We consider what is happening in that respect to be an internal affair and we do not object to it."

Official Denies Intention To Recognize Israel

NC2709175893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1422 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Sep (MENA)—Iraq has emphasized its abiding position of refusing to recognize Israel despite its mutual recognition with the PLO that was declared in Washington on 13 September [as received].

Answering MENA's Baghdad correspondent's query whether reports were true when they said that easing the anti-Iraq sanctions were linked to its recognizing Israel, an official Iraqi source said: This rumor came from Iraq's Arab "neighbor." I mean Jordan.

The Iraqi official pointed out that the Israelis want to prepare Iraqi public opinion to accept recognition of the Zionist entity but they must understand that no such thing will occur.

There have been numerous reports in Iraqi streets over the past two weeks that contacts had taken place between Washington and Baghdad through an intermediary, calling on Iraq to recognize Israel as a "condition" to encourage Washington to ask the United Nations to reduce the economic embargo that was imposed on Iraq three years ago following its invasion of Kuwait.

It should be noted that the Vatican emissary Monsignor Silvestrini, who visited Iraq four months ago, made an offer to President Saddam Husayn involving his recognition of Israel in return for ending the embargo against Iraq. The Iraqi president replied: "When the Palestinians solve their problem with Israel, we will then think of what we will do."

Gulf 'Plotting' Against Palestinians Decried

JN2709100593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Sep (INA)—In an article today, AL-THAWRAH denounces the conspicuous, subversive, conspiratorial role of the Hafar al-Batin regimes against the Palestinian cause.

The paper, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: Anyone who is familiar with this conspiratorial, treasonous role and its background will easily reach the conclusion that the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been conspiring against the Palestinian cause and people right from the very beginning.

The paper adds that those rulers are always the first to conspire against any national Arab cause. The plotting of the Hafar al-Batin regimes is clear and open and does not need any proof. They have sided with the Zionist enemy as if it were the wronged party.

The paper notes the immense pressure being applied against the Palestine question and the policy of deception and lies and the misleading attempts practiced against the Palestinian people and their central cause.

During the recent meeting of the Arab ministerial council in Cairo, the rulers of Saudi Arabia proposed resuming financial aid to the Palestinians to encourage them to pursue the Arab-Zionist settlement negotiations, the paper says.

AL-THAWRAH adds that the Saudi regime is currently considering financing a plan to renovate several buildings in occupied Jerusalem to preserve Islamic culture.

The paper concludes: This is the way the Hafar al-Batin regimes act with the Palestinians at each round of the settlement negotiations. All these false promises are meant to prompt the Palestinian delegation to attend more rounds of the Washington settlement negotiations and make more concessions.

'Negative Consequences' of Gaza-Jericho Viewed

JN2709163393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Sep (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has asserted that the negative consequences of the Gaza-Jericho agreement should not, under any conditions, drive the Palestinian and Arab masses toward despair or frustration. The agreement should not make the masses abandon their course of struggle to achieve their historic objectives of the liberation of Palestine and achieving unity, liberty, and socialism.

In an analysis today by its Editor in Chief Hani Wuhayyib, the paper says the agreement was an outcome of the interaction of Zionist concern and the Palestinian-'Arafatist concern, since any agreement of this kind will definitely reassure both parties and at least meet an important part of their immediate interests.

The paper adds: The awareness of the Palestinian and Arab masses of the dimensions and objectives of this agreement is quite sufficient to put the Palestinian national struggle and pan-Arab struggle on the right track, despite the enormity of what has happened as a result of the agreement.

In its analysis, the paper explains that the circumstances of Palestinian and Arab struggle have necessitated certain methods to express the revolutionary and rational stance toward the Gaza-Jericho agreement. These methods may not function, under all circumstances, as a ready-made formula in all contemporary issues of pan-Arab struggle.

AL-QADISIYAH says that what has taken place will neither weaken the sweeping pan-Arab struggle, nor close the door to the future of the Palestinian and Arab struggle, in which all legitimate ways and means could be used to achieve the long-term objective of liberating Palestine.

The paper affirms that the international and Arab upheavals we have experienced, the eternal spirit of the

Mother of Battles, the valiant intifadah staged by stone-throwers, as well as the serious and negative repercussions of the Gaza-Jericho agreement on both the Palestinian national struggle and pan-Arab struggle will all set the stage for the start of a new phase of pan-Arab struggle and help identify all challenges, requirements, and tasks of this phase. These developments will also, the paper argues, strengthen the spirit of the genuine pan-Arab struggle. They will instill within our hearts a strong and steadily growing pan-Arab awareness that will help us identify the sound approaches of our pan-Arab struggle toward overall pan-Arab issues, foremost among which is the Palestinian issue.

The paper maintains that the stormy world changes elicited by the collapse of the Soviet Union and the brutal 30-state aggression against Iraq have prompted the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary camp to exploit the fruits of its aggressive drive by pushing the PLO and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat into desperation. This mission, the paper contends, has been facilitated by the malicious and conspiratorial role played by the Hafar al-Batin alliance regimes, which made direct contributions toward the anti-Iraq aggression and embargo, cut aid to the PLO, and put pressure on it. It has also been made easier by the determination of the so-called cordon states to walk the path of the Madrid conference, whose natural outcome has been the endorsement of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: Had Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO demonstrated more patience in the tug-of-war between them and the Zionist entity, the Zionist entity would have withdrawn from Gaza of its own volition, and without any agreement. However, it seems that the concern of Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO has been stronger than that of the Zionist entity. That is why they endorsed the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which is a self-rule accord. Hence, the Zionist entity has made immense gains and sustained slight losses.

Concluding its analysis, the paper says: Based on our panoramic pan-Arab perspective regarding overall pan-Arab issues, we would like to say that the pan-Arab struggle will continue unabated to achieve our nation's historic objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism. We only have to seek inspiration from the wellsprings of our objectives and principles. Additionally, we have to be aware of the basics of our pan-Arab struggle. We also have to rearrange our priorities and rehabilitate the axioms and basic concepts of our contemporary pan-Arab struggle to achieve victory for the Arab nation.

SAIRI Cites Source on Execution of 22 Officers

NC2709181993 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] The Kurdistan office of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq has sent us a press release which says:

Reliable sources have reported that Staff Lieutenant General 'Adil Mutlaq al-Juburi, a [word indistinct] officer in the General Command of the Armed Forces, and 22 other staff officers in the General Command, including Staff Lieutenant Colonel Salim Muhammad al-Dulaymi, the third-ranking staff officer in the 5th Corps, have been arrested.

These sources said that these officers and Shaykh 'Ata al-Dulaymi were executed and their immovable and movable possessions were seized.

The sources added that relatives of these officers in the Army have been expelled.

Other senior officers, including retired officer from Mosul Bashir al-Talib, who was commander of the Republican Guard under former President 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad 'Arif, have been arrested.

These campaigns followed reports about a recent coup attempt against the Baghdad ruler.

Over 400 Executed in Baghdad Jail

JN2409160393 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] A responsible source of information at the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq has confirmed reports of mass murders committed by the regime of tyrant Saddam against prisoners and detainees in Baghdad's al-Ridwaniyah jail. The source said accurate information was recently obtained from reliable sources inside Baghdad confirming the tyrant is continuing to massacre the Iraqi people in dozens of 'Aflaqite jails, especially Abu-Ghurayb prison.

The source said more than 100 officers and government employees were executed in the Abu-Ghurayb prison in the past two weeks. They were accused of participating in or knowing of attempts to assassinate the tyrant. Most of the murdered people were from the people of Tikrit, and [three place names indistinct].

The reckless Saddam regime perpetrated a grotesque crime in the al-Ridwaniyah prison on 30 August. More than 400 were executed by Saddam. Their bodies were evacuated by [word indistinct] vehicles.

Kurdish Radio Commentary on Army's 'Deterioration'

NC2709200893 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The Iraqi regime's military establishment is in a stage of deterioration and decline wherein army soldiers, officers, and field commanders are convinced that they have become the tools for achieving the dictatorial regime's objectives of repressing the Iraqi people and of expansion and hegemony at the expense of the region's countries and peoples.

The task of the army as a military force is confined to the defense of the homeland, repulsion of dangers, and resistance of the attacks that the peoples might be subjected to. Therefore, the aim for setting up armies is to defend the peoples and repel dangers and not to oppose their aspirations and legitimate objectives of having a free and dignified life. But as far as the Iraqi Army is concerned under the dictatorial regime, it has become a repressive establishment, specializing in suppressing freedom and dissipating the will of the masses that reject injustice and slavery. The Iraqi regime involved the Army in the furnace of two failed and destructive wars, gaining nothing from them except despair and retreat without achieving any of the hostile objectives that were preplanned for it. The wars only brought more tragedies and tribulations to the Iraqi people and destroyed the national Iraqi economy.

The regime has also made its army carry out frightening chapters of terrorism and ethnic cleansing against the Kurdish people in Iraq's Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

In view of the bitter but clear evidence of the regime's crimes, members of the Iraqi Army realize that the regime has deprived the Army of its concept as the Army of the Iraqi people, turned it into the Army of the regime that is ostracized locally and at the Arab and international levels, and killed hundreds of officers and soldiers by executing them on the battle fronts on the pretext of treason. The dictatorial regime has removed a number of officers and replaced them with the dictator's relatives who, besides not having even the most rudimentary military education, have never served in the Army for a single day.

The gravest challenge to military laws and norms came when dictator Saddam Husayn awarded himself the highest military ranks without having served a single day in the Army.

The military standards have collapsed and the extent of loyalty to the dictator has become the standard for the military man's success or failure.

Unrest has started to spread in the Iraqi Army ranks. The recent wave of executions of officers has increased this unrest and removed the Army's confidence in the regime. The phenomenon of desertion from the Army has started to increase and this has compelled the regime to admit that this phenomenon does exist. The so-called republican presidency court issued on 25 July 1993 an official letter to the Ba'th Party command on the phenomenon of increased desertion from the Army and called on the ruling party's command to stop this serious phenomenon. This only indicates the increasing numbers of young men who reject the regime's policy and its destructive way of handling the Iraqi people's fate.

The tragic condition of the Iraqi Army cannot be avoided unless the Army unites with the people and points its rifles at the dictatorial regime. The time has come for the honest officers and soldiers to realize that the dictatorial regime in Baghdad is a unique example of the backward regimes in the world. There is no place any more for such regimes in the new world order that refuses to deal with despotic regimes which kill their peoples and build their false glories on the corpses of their victims.

The Saddam Husayn regime is ripe to disappear sooner rather than later. The Iraqi Army is called upon to absolve itself, hasten to topple the regime, and spare the Iraqi people more catastrophes and crises. The Iraqi Army would thus be doing its duty and confirming its national identity as the Army of the Iraqi people and not the Army of a regime ostracized by the entire world and is now in its death throes and waiting for the coup de grace.

Kurdish Party Calls for 'Kicking Out Agents'

JN2209175493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—The Central Committee of the Kurdistan Democratic Party has called for the return of national authority to Iraqi Kurdistan, for the imposition of the rule of law there, and for kicking out the agents who are dominating the people there.

A statement issued at the end of a regular meeting of the party's Central Committee published in the newspaper AL-'IRAQ today said that the sons of our Kurdish people will prove to the entire world that they are capable of defending Iraq and the Autonomous Region, and also of standing united to safeguard the accomplishments and gains secured for the people.

In its statement, the Central Committee of the Kurdistan Democratic Party affirmed that the irresponsible practices committed by agents at the behest of their masters within the U.S.-Zionist 30-state alliance have caused citizens in the region to suffer immensely due to the constant theft and burglary committed there, and the lack of security and order, not to mention the unfair embargo imposed on our Iraqi people, be they Arabs or Kurds.

Concluding its statement, the Central Committee of the Kurdistan Democratic Party said the sufferings of our Kurdish people will not cease unless our people unite to kick out agents and traitors.

Kurdish Rebels Arrest 3 'Agents' Carrying TNT

NC2309181493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] The security directorate in the Irbil Governorate has stated that the peshmerga forces in the Irbil zone have arrested three Iraqi agents near the (Khuritan) area on the evening of 21 September. They were found in the possession of approximately 2 kgs of TNT. The directorate said that during interrogations the three agents admitted that they had been sent by Iraqi intelligence in Karkuk to blow up a target. They also admitted that they had previously detonated a rigged vehicle in front of the Nishwar restaurant.

Opposition Claims Successes Against MKO

LD2709103893 Tehran IRNA in English 0947 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—Twelve members of the terrorist Mujahideen Khalq [Mojahedin-e Khalq] Organization (MKO) were killed in an attack by the Iraqi Muslim opposition in Baghdad-Kut highway, east of Iraq, early last week. An informed source of the Iraqi opposition told IRNA that during the attack a number of MKO vehicles were also destroyed.

Some 18 other MKO members were killed and injured in an attack on their headquarters by the Muslim opposition in Baghdad last month.

Attacks by the Iraqi popular forces against MKO members are in retaliation for the MKO's extensive collaboration with the Iraqi Army, the source added.

Minister Assesses 'Passive Impacts' of Embargo

JN2709165293 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 27, INA—Minister of Culture and Information Mr Hamid Yusuf Hammadi today received representatives of the artistic delegations taking part in the activities of Babylon Festival.

Speaking to the delegates, Mr Hammadi said that Iraq intends to stage another artistic festival "The Hatra Festival" in six months time in the northern archaeological city of Hatra.

The minister also briefed the delegates on the passive impacts of the unjust economic embargo imposed on Iraq and said that mortality among Iraqi children had increased four times than that before the aggression on Iraq. He added that health and medical services had decreased against those that were offered to the Iraqi people before the aggression according to the reports of UNICEF and other international envoys who visited Iraq.

The minister further added that the embargo on Iraq which had entered its fourth year was aimed at starving the Iraqi people and destroying Iraq but the enemies had failed to achieve this objective particularly when the Iraqis managed to reconstruct 75 percent of what was destroyed by the aggression in a period of 11 months in the shade of embargo and that is why the enemies of Iraq were annoyed and resolved to perpetuate this embargo with the object of terrorising the Iraqi people.

The minister further referred to those advocating human rights and said that they in reality advocate false right and support the rights of tyrants and the law of jungle which is employed for dominating hegemony over peoples and (?plunder) their resources.

Speaking during the meeting, the representative of the Yemeni delegation renewed support and solidarity of the Yemeni people with Iraq in confronting the unjust embargo and expressed high appreciation and pride over Iraq's attitude in defence of the pan-Arab noble goals.

The representative of the Azerbaijani delegation expressed appreciation for being invited to participate in the Babylon Festival and expressed hope over further promoting of cultural and artistic relations and the exchange of cultural and artistic delegation between the two countries.

Chemical, Petroleum Self-Sufficiency Encouraged

JN2109160893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and the official in charge of military industrialization and oil (MIO), has stressed the need to increase production and achieve self-sufficiency in chemical and petrochemical industries by using local replacements in a way that contributes to the enhancement of our national economy.

Attending the conference on the situation and prospects for chemical and petrochemical industrial research, organized by the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO] under the slogan "Chemical Researches Consolidate Our Victories in the Mother of Battles and Contribute to Breaking the Embargo", Hasan called for making available items that help revive the industrial and private sectors. He urged giving priority to projects whose raw materials can be made available locally.

Hasan pointed to the importance of interaction and constructive discussions in order to enrich the seminar and make the pioneering systems and applied research achieve production patterns, in constant coordination with various sectors, to achieve the best results in a way that contributes to breaking the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq.

The conference, also attended by Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad and MIO Director Major General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, in its morning and evening sessions, discussed 16 topics on specialized industries, agricultural chemicals, petrochemical industries, chemical painting, production of inks and dyes, extractive industries, electronics, electricity, foundries, refractories, construction, mining and rubber industries, industrial applications, and glass.

Regarding the outcome of the conference, Dayf 'Abd-al-Majid Ahmad, first deputy of the MIO director and chairman of the conference's preparatory committee, told the Iraqi News Agency that this conference was held on the instructions of President leader Saddam Husayn, to utilize the creative abilities, double efforts, and find replacements to support the national industry and economy under the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq.

Brothels, Liquor Stores, Markets Said Closed

JN1909185293 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Sep 93

[Text] Within the framework of Saddam regime's corruptive attempts to cover up moral corruption, which the tyrant and his henchmen has been encouraging for a long time among the sons of our Muslim people, the tyrant has recently closed down brothels and liquor stores on both sides of the al-Watan street in the al-Basrah Governorate.

A source stressed to the mujahidin of the Islamic revolution that the tyrant's measures were taken due to its fears of the mujahidin's continuous strikes to destroy the pillars of the regime and to kill its men who frequent dens of corruption.

Following the tyrant's defeat in the Gulf war, the crusader regime in Baghdad has flagrantly spread corruption in Iraq. Our informed sources have more than once stressed that the tyrant regime gave millions of dinars to the owners of pubs and clubs and encouraged them to divert the youths' attention from the Iraqi people's ordeal and suffering from the unjust internal and external economic blockade imposed on them as a result of the terrorist regime's policy in Baghdad.

As a result of the escalation of the mujahidin operations against the defeated tyrant's institutions and his its henchmen, the tyrant has shut down most of shops in the Muraydi market in the city of al- Thawrah in the Baghdad Governorate. An Islamic revolution mujahidin source has said that these repressive measures included preventing vendors, who seek to earn living in order to keep their children barely alive, from entering the market, which is the second biggest market in the city of al-Thawrah, which is alert to revolt against the defeatist tyrant.

The same source stressed that the tyrant has taken these measures to avoid people's revolutionary activities in this city of revolt. Consequently, the city is paralyzed.

AL-SHURUQ Interviews Heir to Throne

JN2509171093 Al-Shariqah AL-SHURUQ in Arabic 16-22 Sep 93 pp 22-24

[First six paragraphs are newspaper's introduction]

[Text] London—AL-SHURUQ—Al-Sharif 'Ali Bin-al-Husayn, descendant of the Hashemite dynasty, is 37 years old, and he is today a candidate to restore Iraq's throne, which was removed on 14 July 1958.

On that day—that is, 35 years ago—an infantry company affiliated with the 20th Brigade of the Iraqi Army attacked the al-Rihab Palace, the residence of the royal family, and opened fire on members of the royal family, who walked to the courtyard of the palace asking for protection, as the women carried the Koran. Those killed in the al-Rihab massacre were King Faysal II [monarch of Iraq] and Prince 'Abd-al-Ilah, his maternal uncle and the regent. Thus, the rule of the Hashemite dynasty in Baghdad ended, a republican system was set up, and consequently, chaos, differences, and revolutions took place there.

The only survivors of the massacre were Princess Badi'ah, the maternal aunt of King Faysal II; her husband; and three children. They survived because they lived in a house not far away from al-Rihab Palace. When they heard the revolution communiques broadcast on Baghdad radio that bloody Friday, they sought refuge at the Saudi Embassy. This secured their move to Saudi Arabia, their first stop in their long and bitter journey.

Al-Sharif 'Ali is the son of Princess Badi'ah. Today, he is the most likely candidate to restore constitutional monarchy to Iraq. This idea is now prevailing urgently among Iraqis and in decisionmaking capitals, especially in the aftermath of the first and second Gulf war.

It seems that this youth, who received his education in Beirut and London and grew up in an Arab and Islamic environment, has decided to face this difficult challenge and walk on the thorny road back to Baghdad. He has a master's degree in undeveloped economies. He is married to an Iraqi woman from one of Karbala's deep-rooted families and has one son—Faysal III—and two daughters.

[AL-SHURUQ] What will be your plan for ruling Iraq if you assume power there?

['Ali] We seek to set up a constitutional monarchy in accordance with the choice of the Iraqi people. This will be decided in a public referendum and polls. We will seek to achieve democracy and the people's participation in running the country's affairs. We will seek to entrench law enforcement and to consolidate the principles of human rights. All this will lead to establishing a modern state, based on science, taking into consideration our heritage and history.

[AL-SHURUQ] How will you deal with the various Iraqi parties? Will any parties not be allowed to function? Which ones?

['Ali] One of the basics of democracy is recognizing the right to thought and public political organization within the framework of the laws and the legislation passed by parliament. This will enable all political parties to work freely. Regarding the second part of your question, we are prepared to work with all opposition parties in the arena.

[AL-SHURUQ] The Kurdish question is one of the hot issues in the Iraqi file. How do you view the solution to this issue within Iraq's boundaries?

['Ali] The Kurdish question is part of the Iraqi question. Kurds have the right to demand the attainment of their rights, just like all Iraq's citizens. If constitutional, democratic rule is realized and if the rule of law prevails, the Kurdish issue can be resolved and the legitimate rights of the Kurds addressed. The failure to resolve the Kurdish question in all previous eras was due to the lack of democratic means and confidence in the existing regimes, and the absence of laws guaranteeing citizens' rights.

[AL-SHURUQ] Do you recognize the de facto Kurdish state now existing in northern Iraq? Or, do you prefer autonomy for the Iraqi Kurds?

['Ali] There is no Kurdish state in northern Iraq now; there is liberated territory. What we see today in Kurdistan is the result of well-known developments and circumstances. We believe completely in full equality of rights and duties for all Iraqi citizens, regardless of their various ethnic origins and sects, within the framework of Iraq's unity. Regarding your question about autonomy, the forthcoming constitutional monarchy system will give the Kurds more than that.

[AL-SHURUQ] You will undoubtedly inherit a heavy economic, political, and social burden. How would you tackle the consequences of previous eras?

['Ali] The current regime in Iraq is the heaviest of burdens for Iraqis. It drains Iraq's resources. Iraq, as you know, is rich with resources, manpower, and expertise in various fields. These factors will, God willing, enable Iraq to rebuild itself and overcome the heavy burdens left by previous eras. Iraqis' love for their homeland and their pride in it, as well as their eagerness to improve Iraq's standing, will greatly help in the reconstruction process, especially as we seek to unleash liberties and open the fields of work on all levels.

[AL-SHURUQ] Are there any guarantees that the Iraqi people, who made enormous sacrifices to win their national independence and rid themselves of subservience to Britain, will not nurse doubts about your return to the helm of power in Iraq?

['Ali] Iraq has never been subservient to Britain, although this misconception enjoys wide circulation. Here, there should be a distinction between political subservience and international relations, which are dictated by hard facts. For, despite complicated regional and international circumstances, Iraq achieved its independence in modern times under the rule of King Faysal I. This happened in 1932. Iraq was the first independent Arab state to join the League of Nations. This independence was achieved after Iraq made enormous sacrifices, thanks to the efforts of the nation's leaders. Now, we see that it is practically losing its independence at the hands of a handful of ignorant adventurists. We believe the homeland's independence from foreign domination is a sacred issue all of us must safeguard. This issue is connected to our dignity and honor. The conceptions and objectives cherished by proponents of constitutional monarchy, which are grounded in the nation's will, would dispel any doubts, if there are any. These conceptions and objectives regarding the policies to be pursued and the exercise of the right to self-determination would be put to the people in a public referendum.

[AL-SHURUQ] Can you spell out exactly how you see your relations with the Arab states, and with Iran, and Turkey? And, with the Western states, especially Britain and the United States?

['Ali] Iraq is an Arab and Islamic country. No Iraqi regime can ignore this fact. So, we believe our relations with Arab and Islamic states must take this peculiarity into account. These relations must also promote the country's national interests. With respect to our relations with the Western countries and the rest of the world, Iraq's being a member of the international community dictates that it comply with international conventions and the resolutions of the United Nations and other international bodies. Our relations with foreign countries will be built on the basis of mutual benefit and interest. This must result in promoting our national and humanitarian interests.

Allied Use of Saudi, Kuwaiti Facilities Protested

JN2609150493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League of the continued provision of facilities by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the U.S., British, and French planes that violate Iraqi airspace, posing a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a message addressed to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said these planes violated Iraqi airspace on 21 September and carried out 59 aggressive sorties, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Iraq's representative attached a list to his message detailing these violations, and demanded that they be distributed among the Arab member states to acquaint them with these regrettable facts.

Details of Meeting Between Rabin, Husayn Reported

TA2809091693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Sep 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff and Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, met with King Husayn Sunday [26 September] night to discuss the continuation of the Middle East peace process and the Israel-PLO agreement. The meeting was held on a boat in the Gulf of Elat.

The Jordanians, who have denied reports about this meeting, said yesterday that King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan are spending several days on vacation at the king's residence in al-'Aqabah. Israel has not confirmed that such a meeting took place, but the prime minister's bureau failed to issue a sharp denial.

The cancellation of the prime minister's appearance on behalf of the Information Center—which was scheduled to be held in Jerusalem on Sunday night—and the publicity given to this cancellation immediately caused speculation regarding behind-the-scenes developments. It looked as though somebody was interested in hinting that the prime minister was conducting secret business.

Apparently King Husayn was interested in meeting with Prime Minister Rabin at the earliest opportunity. The Israel-PLO agreement and the quick pace of developments spurred the king to examine Israel's intentions in its contacts with the PLO and whether the sudden agreement will not harm Jordanian interests.

Jordan was interested in finding out whether its strategic status has changed in Israel's view in the wake of its emerging relations with the PLO. Jordan could already be harmed during the initial stages of the agreement's implementation if, for example, Israel transfers to the Palestinians any form of responsibility for the border checkpoint near Jericho.

Jordan was also interested in ascertaining what Israel means by undertaking to involve the Palestinians in Dead Sea development plans. Development activity on the western part of the Dead Sea could immediately affect the Jordanian factories on the eastern side.

Israel was interested in assuaging King Husayn's apprehensions. Political sources say that no change has taken place in Israel's position regarding Jordan's important role in any peace agreement and in the relations between Israel, the Palestinians, and Jordan.

The prime minister was interested in offering the king a detailed explanation of his intentions in signing the mutual recognition and the declaration of principles agreements with the PLO. Israel wants to incorporate Jordan in the peace agreement as soon as possible, before a new situation is created with the PLO on the ground.

Another issue under discussion between Israel and Jordan is the presence of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] offices in Jordan. Terror activities are being planned against Israel, both in the territories and within the Green Line, from these offices.

Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday unofficially confirmed the meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and King Husayn. The meeting was also attended, on the Israeli side, by Major General Dani Yatom, Rabin's military secretary, and by 'Oded Ben-'Ami, Rabin's media adviser. The sources confirmed that the meeting was held in the Gulf of Elat. [passage omitted]

'Sources' Confirm Meeting

TA2809054493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] First to the reports about a secret meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Jordan's King Husayn: The evidence is mounting that such a meeting indeed took place. Both the prime minister and Jordanian sources have denied that it was held. Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic correspondent Shlomo Raz this morning quotes senior government circles as saying that the prime minister met with Husayn to explain the accord signed with the PLO and to discuss further negotiations between Israel and Jordan. According to the sources, Israel became aware that Jordan is concerned about the agreement with the PLO, and consequently there was a need to clarify the situation with Husayn.

The HA'ARETZ newspaper this morning carries a report saying the two leaders met on a boat in the Gulf of Elat. Amman earlier reported that the king, Crown Prince Hasan, and the prime minister were holidaying in al-'Aqabah.

DAVAR has a different version. It said that on Sunday [26 September] night, Prime Minister Rabin, with a small entourage, arrived in Elat in a light plane and from there were shuttled to a night meeting with Husayn in al-'Aqabah in a gray transit van with blacked-out windows.

Rabin Denies Meeting Husayn

TA2709204893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the world is getting used to our sovereignty over Jerusalem and that even Arab elements have said that Jerusalem is a pan-Islamic issue, and that freedom of religion in the city and its political status should be separated. He said that the agreement with the PLO states that Jerusalem is not an issue for discussion during the interim period.

Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that after addressing an election rally in Nes Ziyyona, Rabin again denied the rumors that he met with Jordan's King Husayn last night. When asked if his remarks might be proved incorrect within a short time, Rabin replied that he hoped they would not.

Cuban Overtures Said Rejected Due To U.S. Pressure

TA2809141993 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Sep 93 pp 1, 15

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] The U.S. Administration has made it clear to Israel that it would take a grave view of the establishment of ties between Israel and Cuba.

It has been learned that Jerusalem recently received signals from Fidel Castro's regime that Cuba would like to have ties with Israel, which would lead to official relations between the two states.

The Cubans used various intermediaries to find out whether Israel would permit a group of agricultural experts to visit here. The Cubans also used intermediaries in South America to look into Israel's readiness to set up trade ties.

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem approached Washington on the matter and it was made clear that the United States expects its allies to maintain a full boycott of Castro's regime.

The U.S. Administration told Israeli envoys that in their view, Castro's regime is "tottering," and Israel must not support a regime the United States wants to get rid of. It has also been learned that U.S. diplomats in Israel called on the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem to explain reports they received about commercial ties between Israel and Cuba.

In view of the United State's uncompromising approach, Jerusalem has decided not to respond to Cuban approaches.

Peres Calls on al-Asad To Meet Openly With Officials

TA2709183093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres called on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to meet openly with Israeli leaders. Peres addressed the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations [CPMAJO]. Judy Lessing reports from New York:

[Begin recording] [Lessing] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Peres also had arms control on his mind when he told members of the CPMAJO that it is time to build a new Middle East.

[Peres] Actually, there will never be security for any nation in the Middle East unless we shall have a regional pact of nonaggression, of arms control, and eventually a Middle East as a free zone of nonconventional weapons. There is no answer, no military answer, to modern military danger.

[Lessing] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Peres will meet President Clinton later tonight at a diplomatic reception. [end recording]

Rejects Reports on Palestinian Returnees

TA2809060893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Peres has rejected reports that Israel has agreed to the return of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees. Speaking in New York, he said the subject is one that has to be negotiated with the Palestinians:

[Begin Peres recording] They want the right of return, and, you know, in many papers it was published that we have agreed to 800,000, to 200,000. We did not agree to any single return.

I am talking with them very frankly and very openly. They ask us: Please explain to us why is it that the Jewish state made the right of the Jews' return to Israel a recognized right and why do you deny it to us? We are a people. We share the same land. Why should we not have the same rights? And we answer very frankly. We said: Look, would we, the Jewish people, have 22 Jewish states like you have 22 Arab states, we would never include the right of return to Israel.

I told the Palestinians something. I said: Look, if you want to negotiate, do not insist on declared positions. Explain to us what you can or cannot do, and we shall explain to you what we can or cannot do. Because you can easily have a confrontation of two postures, and then where are you going? [end recording]

Peres on Agreement With PLO, Changes in Region

AU2709165893 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 27 Sep 93 pp 177-179

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Romain Leick and Stefan Simons in Jerusalem; date not given: "The Heroes Are Tired"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Mr. Foreign Minister, do you trust Yasir 'Arafat?

[Peres] I do not rely on the individual person but on the political situation. It is the situation that determines the actions of a person, not the other way around. What can 'Arafat do? Let us assume that he wants to cheat us or opt out of the peace process: Can he really do this?

[DER SPIEGEL] Hardly, he is doomed to succeed. But the same goes for you.

[Peres] 'Arafat has as little choice as we do.

[DER SPIEGEL] In the past, the PLO chief was a man with many faces. What convinced you that he is now the right partner for a peace agreement?

[Peres] Nations, like people, do not remain young forever. Sometime or another, time will run out for them. 'Arafat no longer had any alternative. On the other hand, there was no alternative without him, either. I wondered what would happen if the PLO disappeared. Who would then make the decisions? In politics one must work with the available forces. It is possible to create new structures, but only with the available material.

[DER SPIEGEL] It took quite some time for Israel to come to this insight. When did you become aware of the fact that there is no way around the PLO?

[Peres] The change came with my appointment as foreign minister. I stick to facts, not to words. We found a group of Palestinians with whom we believed we could do business. Their readiness to come to agreements at the secret negotiations in Oslo was more important in the end than the chorus on the official stage in Washington.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is it not one of the greatest ironies in your state's history that it is precisely Israel that revives the PLO, which has almost been declared dead, and makes 'Arafat its unloved but indispensable ally?

[Peres] The Middle East is no longer characterized solely by the difference between Zionism and Arab nationalism....

[DER SPIEGEL] What has changed the frontlines?

[Peres] Three essential things: As a result of the collapse of communism, the Arabs lost the opportunity to exploit the East-West conflict and to have the Soviet Union arm them. The North-South conflict has also been reduced so that at the votes in the United Nations the Arabs can no longer automatically count on the solidarity of the Third World.

And in the Arab world itself, a struggle between fundamentalism and the modern era, between reactionism and progress, has broken out. As a result, the Palestinians have lost their traditional support—military, political, and financial support. These constraints, to which the PLO has been subjected, were clear to me from the very beginning.

[DER SPIEGEL] If you are so sure to have 'Arafat in the bag, why do you not invite him to Jerusalem?

[Peres] You ask me to be ahead of the times.

[DER SPIEGEL] You already shook hands with him in Washington. What did you feel then?

[Peres] It was not a beauty contest or a private reconciliation, but an official act. 'Arafat represented his people. I cannot choose the leaders of the Palestinians, just as the Palestinians cannot choose the leaders of Israel.

[DER SPIEGEL] Was it difficult to persuade Prime Minister Rabin to make this symbolic handshake? One could see his reluctance.

[Peres] Thank God, the Almighty has created people with different temperaments; otherwise, the world would be a boring place. Basically, however, Rabin did not see the matter any differently than I did.

[DER SPIEGEL] But without you as the engine, Rabin would hardly have gone so far.

[Peres] Am I supposed to compliment myself?

[DER SPIEGEL] The political geography has not changed despite the declaration of peace. So far, it has always been said that Israel cannot renounce the strategic depth that the occupied West Bank offers it. Why are you now willing to withdraw?

[Peres] Our security is in danger in three ways: In the country itself because of individual acts of terror committed by people with knives; at our borders because of the invasions of tank armies; and in our towns because of the long-distance attacks with missiles. This threat cannot be averted with the force of arms alone, the answer to that is a mixture of strategy and policy. The strategic depth is not lost if the area from which we withdraw is demilitarized. The best defense is the conclusion of a just peace. A political breakthrough is more decisive than a piece of land.

[DER SPIEGEL] 'Arafat concluded the peace agreement not because he was strong but because he was weak. Will he be able to bring about the promised peace?

[Peres] He should try it, it is in his interest. Why should it be us who keeps the armed minority of Arabs who are against peace in check in order to protect the life of the unarmed majority who want peace? The Arabs have to do that themselves. If an Israeli soldier just touches a Palestinian, this is immediately turned into an international incident. Now the Arabs can establish their own police forces and ensure law and order, by force if necessary. We are no longer preventing them from doing that.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, the issue is not just internal Palestinian conflicts but also attacks against Israelis. Do you really believe that a Palestinian police force will be able and willing to put an end to the terror?

[Peres] So far, the terrorists have killed more Palestinians than Israelis: Since the outbreak of the intifadah, almost 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by their compatriots, many as so-called collaborators on the basis of unproven rumors. This is one of the reasons why it must be in the PLO's interest to create a system on the basis of a rule-of-law state.

[DER SPIEGEL] What will happen if terrorists carry out an attack on Israeli citizens and then seek refuge in the autonomous areas while the Palestinian police looks the other way? Will you then have the army march in again?

[Peres] I hope that this will not be necessary. If it is necessary for us to defend our lives, yes, then we will naturally do that. But our policy is aimed at eliminating hatred and violence. The knives in the Palestinians' hands will not be dangerous if hostility declines.

[DER SPIEGEL] You will not be able to overcome the hatred of the fundamentalists with your logic of peace. How will Israel react if the Islamic extremists of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] come to power in the autonomous territories?

[Peres] If they keep the agreements with us—no problem, because then this is an internal Palestinian matter. If they do not adhere to the peace agreement, we are not bound by it anymore either.

[DER SPIEGEL] Fundamentalism flourishes in poverty and hopelessness. Therefore, the success of the agreement will essentially depend on how quickly the living conditions in the autonomous territories change. How can Europe help?

[Peres] The EC should support us in creating a common market in this region. It would be wrong if we concentrated exclusively on drawing up some sort of Marshall Plan with foreign money. Lasting prosperity develops only with a free market and a self-sustaining upswing.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, the precondition for that is political stability.

[Peres] Exactly. It is pointless to spend $50 million per year on armaments in the Middle East. Dictatorships are a luxury—at least in economic terms—that devour a lot of money: an intelligence service, gleaming weapons, omnipresent observation and censorship. Why should anyone finance such a system? Freedom is the best investment.

[DER SPIEGEL] In the Arab neighboring states freedom and democracy are still far away. Syria's President al-Asad, for instance, has strongly resisted a peace. Can he still sabotage what has been achieved so far?

[Peres] No way. He is trying to turn Lebanon into the backyard of the radical opponents of peace. He thinks that he can exert pressure on us this way. However, he is wrong. In reality he himself needs peace urgently.

[DER SPIEGEL] What are the problems in the negotiations with Damascus? Can you not expect the Israeli public to accept a withdrawal from Golan at the moment?

[Peres] This is not the only reason. The Syrians have indeed made some positive sounds, but they have not offered anything specific. It is incredible that the Syrian foreign minister refuses to talk to me. Why is President al-Asad not willing to meet with the Israeli prime minister? Are we pariahs? We want to nego' ate with the Syrians on an equal footing, either openly or in secret.

[DER SPIEGEL] Control over the Golan is a question of security for Israel. It should be easy to solve the problem with treaties and guarantees.

[Peres] Of course, this is possible. The plans are simple, but the will is missing. The Syrians want to harvest fruit without planting trees beforehand.

[DER SPIEGEL] 'Arafat, on the other hand, is already in the process of harvesting. He has promised his followers that he will move his government's seat to Jericho by the end of the year. Why does Israel not want to admit that this is the beginning of an independent Palestinian state?

[Peres] 'Arafat can announce a lot. This does not commit us to anything. A Palestinian state would not only be against Israel's interests but also against those of Jordan and of the Palestinians themselves.

[DER SPIEGEL] How so?

[Peres] The triangle of Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians must not have barbs. It must be tightly clamped together. The area is too small and the economy too dynamic for us to afford confrontations. Therefore, I imagine that the three peoples will form an economic federation while the Palestinians form a political federation with Jordan.

[DER SPIEGEL] Nevertheless, the Palestinians will insist on all attributes of an independent state: executive power, legislative power, and their own security forces. Why do you not want to call this state a state?

[Peres] There are no firm commandments for the path toward a state. The idea of sovereignty was born in 16th-century Europe. Today Europe has expanded its borders so far that the states there are primarily cultural and economic units—this should be possible in our region, too. The future cannot be drafted with the concepts of the past.

[DER SPIEGEL] Nationalism is not a political force of the past. 'Arafat is determined to use the agreement as a lever for the establishment of an independent state. You cannot prevent that.

[Peres] I cannot prevent 'Arafat from dreaming.

[DER SPIEGEL] Dreams change political realities. The Zionists dreamed for a long time, too.

[Peres] If our dreams are compatible, a joint plan for the future can develop from that. If they clash, this will lead to new confrontations. Even dreams need compromises.

[DER SPIEGEL] What does Jerusalem's future look like in these dreams? 'Arafat wants to make East Jerusalem the capital of Palestine at the end of the peace process, without barbed wire, in peaceful coexistence with the Israelis.

[Peres] This is not going to happen. We cannot turn Jerusalem into a new Berlin. Berlin is united, why should Jerusalem be divided? Why two administrations for one city? Access to the religious sites must remain open for all anyway—for Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

[DER SPIEGEL] Thus, no room for a Palestinians government?

[Peres] No. All through history Jerusalem has never been an Arab capital. The Jewish people, on the other hand, have never had any other capital but Jerusalem. When the Muslims pray, they bow towards Mecca; when we pray, we bow towards Jerusalem.

[DER SPIEGEL] The glorious victory in the Six-Day War in 1967 aroused the Zionist dream of Greater Israel—between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean. Does the historic basic treaty with the Palestinians now mean that Israel gives up this vision once and for all?

[Peres] Some people dreamed of that. However, as a state Israel offered negotiations on the return of the territories on the day after the victory. We have always been ready for compromise. Borders and land are no longer decisive now. We need regional agreements to ensure security and to utilize the natural resources, water for instance. Times have changed, we cannot dream in the past anymore.

[DER SPIEGEL] Can you understand the grief of your opponents, who have demonstrated in front of the parliament and complained that Israel is now withdrawing to the borders of 1949 after so many wars and sacrifices?

[Peres] We are not doing that. The status of Jerusalem, the settlements, Israel's security—all that cannot be compared with the state of affairs in 1949.

[DER SPIEGEL] After one generation of political leaders, who fought for Israel all their lives—Golda Me'ir, Begin, Shamir, and Rabin—you are considered to be a statesman, who, like no other, conjures up the vision of Israel's peaceful integration in the Middle East. After half a century of wars, will you lead your country into the age of peace?

[Peres] My interest in politics is the drafting of a peace, not the administering of government offices. I have held all kinds of ministerial posts. I was prime minister; I know the problems and temptations of this office. Therefore, there are only a few politicians who are as independent as I am. I am not bound hand and foot. I am mentally open, and I can do what I consider right—for the coming generations.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is the peace process really irreversible, or could it be stopped brutally?

[Peres] Dangers are lurking everywhere, but logic says that there is only one path forward. So far, the Israelis and Arabs have lived in a tragedy. Now hope can develop from that for the first time. I prefer Chekhov's dramas over those of Shakespeare. At the end of Chekhov's dramas, everybody is lying on the ground, powerless and injured; the heroes are tired but alive. In Shakespeare's dramas they rise up into the air, in all their greatness and grandeur, but at the end they are all dead. When our tragedy comes to an end, I hope it will be in line with Chekhov.

[DER SPIEGEL] Mr. Minister, thank you for this interview.

Demilitarization of Ceded Land 'Nonnegotiable'

TA2709204593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that the demilitarization of any ceded territory is a nonnegotiable condition and that if it is not implemented, Israel will give up the peace. In an address to Haifa University's Academic Club, Beilin said that no Israeli Government would be prepared to return to the pre-1967 borders and give up sovereignty over Jerusalem and that prior to the permanent arrangement the Palestinians will have to decide between no peace with us and a readiness to compromise.

On the Jewish settlements, he said that the Likud government set them up in the heart of Judaea and Samaria with the aim of preventing an arrangement that would include ceding territory, but now that they have been set up all governments are committed to them.

Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that Dr. Beilin also referred to the nuclear weapons issue, saying that Israel refused to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] as long as there is no peace between us and the Arab states. He believes that Israel would prefer a regional nuclear nonproliferation accord to signing the NPT.

Cabinet Considers Raising Level of Peace Talks

TA2709121993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Sep 93 p A3

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Several ministers said after yesterday's cabinet session that Israel is examining the possibility of raising the talks with the Palestinians to "a political level"—that is, to the level of ministers—if their assessment that Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], considered the No. 2 man in the PLO, will be appointed to lead the talks for the Palestinian side turns out to be accurate.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau said they know nothing of such intentions and that a high-level appointment on the Palestinian side would not necessarily bring about a "parallel" appointment on the Israeli side. [passage omitted]

Several ministers believe that contrary to Rabin's statement that the negotiations on Gaza and Jericho will be entrusted to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Palestinians may object to this and Israel may be forced to appoint a "civilian" to conduct the negotiations.

Rabin and security officials told the cabinet ministers that the IDF has been asked to complete its staff work before deliberations begin on Gaza and Jericho in order to formulate a uniform policy regarding the overall transfer of powers in the territories and to prevent precedents being set in Gaza and Jericho that will bind Israel, against its will, in the rest of the territories.

Rabin urged the ministers not to conduct an independent policy with regard to future Israeli-Palestinian contacts or give the Palestinians false hopes about an overnight revolutionary change in their living standards. Rabin asked all the government ministries to coordinate their policies vis-a-vis the territories through the Prime Minister's Office, which will continue to bear ministerial responsibility for the negotiations with the Palestinians. The prime minister stressed that the Palestinians should not be given the feeling that Israel is "courting" them or that it intends to force itself on the Palestinian economy.

Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of activities in the territories, told the ministers that there are signs in the field that the local population has begun to get used to the idea that the IDF is about the withdraw from the territories. As an example, he cited the fact that the authorities are encountering growing difficulties in collecting taxes and payments of electricity bills. [passage omitted]

Yesterday the IDF appointed the commander of the Jordan Valley Brigade, a colonel, as head of the team that will discuss all the security aspects pertaining to the withdrawal with the Palestinians.

Plans To Appoint New Mosad, Shin Bet Chiefs Denied

TA2709134693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Sep 93 p A7

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, has not been holding any discussions whatsoever with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] generals about the appointment of new heads to the Shin Bet and the Mosad, a senior security source asserted yesterday.

Eight months ago, HA'ARETZ reported that the prime minister had proposed the job of head of the Shin Bet to Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, but Vilna'i had turned it down.

The current head of the Shin Bet has been in office six years, and the prime minister is reportedly "pleased with his performance." The head of the Mosad has been in his job five years.

The two remain in their jobs despite the fact that a committee appointed in the prime minister's bureau ruled that their terms in office should not exceed five years.

A political source said that replacing the head of the Shin Bet or the Mosad in the midst of the political process and the IDF's and Shin Bet's redeployment in Gaza and Jericho would not be "a wise step."

Deliberations of IDF Autonomy Committees Detailed

TA2809111393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Sep 93 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has recently established nine committees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to deal in detail with issues relating to the IDF's redeployment in the territories in the wake of the Israel-PLO agreement. A document prepared by the IDF on this issue names the following committees: a steering and coordinating committee, an operational strategy committee, an organization committee, a Jericho committee, an intelligence committee, a logistics committee, a detainees committee, an infrastructure committee, and a Gaza committee.

The detainees committee was tasked with preparing a plan for releasing most of the detainees from the detention facilities in the territories, excluding Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists.

From the initial briefings of the committees to Major General Nehemya Tamari, commander of the IDF Central Command, and the heads of the Civil Administration, the following timetable emerges:

October—beginning of transferring authorities in the areas of education, culture, health, tourism, taxation, and welfare; beginning of formation of Palestinian police.

November—issuing the Central Command directive on withdrawal from Jericho and redeployment in the West Bank.

December—publicizing the agreement for a withdrawal from Jericho.

January 1994—implementing the Central Command directive on withdrawal from Jericho and redeployment in the West Bank.

April—completing the withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza.

June—closing the Civil Administration's files in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

July—holding elections for the autonomy in the West Bank; disbanding the Civil Administration in the West Bank; completion of the IDF's redeployment.

The committees' first session was held under the direction of the Central Command's chief of staff approximately two weeks ago. The committees are scheduled to submit their recommendations to the chief of staff and the General Staff on 19 December. From the discussions of the logistics committee, it transpires that the IDF intends to evacuate its forces from all population centers in the West Bank.

The Gaza committee is supposed to determine the new border points and the IDF's withdrawal and redeployment moves, which will stipulate how the IDF will cooperate with the Border Police. Some of the IDF units evacuated from the IDF headquarters in the Gaza Strip will be in charge of routine security along the new border line.

Two electronic fences at the cost of 20-30 million shekels will be set up around the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip. At the first stage, the fences will be 9 km long.

All of the Civil Administration workers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be transferred to other jobs and approximately half of them will retire. The Civil Administration in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be disbanded, jobs will be abolished, and the administration's entire budget will be canceled. The Civil Administration will only retain advisers who will help in the implementation of the agreements with the PLO.

From the work of one of the committees it transpires that after the completion of the evacuation from Gaza and Jericho, IDF troops will not reenter the cities, even in cases of disturbances or attacks. The Palestinian police will be in charge of these incidents. The Palestinian and Israeli police forces will cooperate on the intelligence level but not on the ground.

The IDF will establish dozens of roadblocks and outposts along the new border lines to maintain security. There will also be reinforced IDF patrols on the traffic axes during the first stages following the evacuation.

Ministry Formulating New 'Peace Road Map'

TA2409160993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Sep 93 pp 1, 6

[Report by Hagay Porschner]

[Text] The map, which is published here today for the first time, is a copy of the "Peace Road Map," which the top echelon of the Construction and Housing Ministry first began to prepare in April and May 1993 on instructions from Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer.

The map does not present operational plans for preparing infrastructure and the paving of roads for the areas destined to be part of the autonomy, except for one road, as detailed below. The boundaries are based on the Green Line, although the Construction Ministry does not have any idea where border modifications, which might be part of the final arrangement, will be made.

"When the bilateral discussions reach the practical stage, ministry representatives will do their job," Director General Arye Mizrahi explained this week. "Our job is not only housing policy, but also infrastructure, including transportation infrastructure. In order to develop these fields it is possible and worthwhile to depend on Middle East and regional projects inside Eretz Yisra'el and its immediate environs. When government representatives come to the deliberations on such projects they will bring with them delegates from large companies in each sector under consideration and will see to it that they are given business opportunities."

In the areas west of the Green Line, these projects can already be implemented in the coming years and some are incorporated in the Public Works Division plan.

The main traffic axis in the complex of projects is Road No. 6, the trans-Israel highway. It will stretch from a point south of Beersheba to Bet Shemesh, where it will divert —at a point not yet decided, but adjacent to the Green Line—to the Tulkarm area, and from Yoqne'am it will divide into two routes—the eastern route up to the Zefat, Hazor, and the Rosh Pina junction; and the western route to Shelomi near the international border with Lebanon.

The "Peace Road" will link up with Road No. 6 at four points:

- East of Beersheba, a road will be paved, partly along the existing route, to Dimona and 'En Tamar. In that area, the road can be made to interface with the village of al-Safi in Jordan, and with time, also reach the tunnel between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Elat, which is under consideration.
- In the Qiryat Gat area, Road No. 6 will link up with the road between Ashqelon and Ashdod port, with a detour south to interface with the Erez junction (the northern border of the Gaza Strip), and the 'Adulam area east of Bet Guvrin. From 'Adulam and the foothills of the Judaean hills, it can be continued eastward through Hebron and East Jerusalem until Jericho and the Allenby Bridge, and from there in the direction of Amman.
- In the Ben-Gurion Airport area, Road No. 45 will run to the new town of Modi'in (in the pre-1967 Latrun demilitarized area) and east to Jericho. That is the only road on which work has started, as part of the Public Works Division's short-term work plan.
- In the Yoqne'am region, Road No. 6 will link up with the "66- 75" traffic axis leading from Haifa to the area east of Megiddo junction. From there, it can be continued to the Damiya bridge and onto Amman.

The map also mentions the "extraterritorial road" that, according to various plans, is supposed to link the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Another road can link up Bet She'an and Irbid in northern Jordan.

In the Elat area, Construction Ministry officials have begun to think about linking the Elat-Tabah road with al-'Aqabah (and along the coastline to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia), and via the southern coast to Sharm al-Shaykh. It can pass through 'En 'Avrona if an agreement is reached that permits the use of al-'Aqabah's large airport for Elat also, in return for a fee.

In the central area of the trans-Israel highway—the southern Sharon area between Netanya and Kefar Sava—whose general outlines have begun to be worked on—it will be possible to implement the idea proposed by Ben-Eli'ezer: "To set up a region where Israel and the autonomy interface." Here, an additional traffic axis—Netanya, Tulkarm (and from there onto Nabulus and the Damiya bridge)—will link up with the trans-Israel highway. The area where the two entities interface is due to be located on the western side of Road No. 6, and perhaps also on the eastern side, beyond the Green Line, where a new industrial zone will be built.

"Instead of southern Sharon area residents travelling through the most traffic jammed areas to Tel Aviv and its environs," Ben-Eli'ezer explained, "they will be able to travel along a long and modern road and comfortably reach the areas where offices and plants will be built on orange groves and fallow lands. The Tulkarm and Qalqilyah areas can then serve as large intersections where services to travelers will also be provided."

Under the minister's plan, that interfacing region can "provide an economic impetus to the settlements in the heart of the Sharon area, just as the interfacing area east of Bet Guvrin can provide a similar impetus to the settlements in the 'Adulam district.

Finance Minister Comments on Palestinian Economy

TA2809083993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat in Washington by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Dan] Good morning, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat in Washington.

[Shohat] Good morning.

[Dan] What kind of role does Israel seek to play in all the discussions on aid to the territories that are currently taking place in New York and Washington? Does Israel see itself involved in the transfer of aid to the territories or would it prefer to remain on the sidelines?

[Shohat] Israel has a supreme interest in attracting investments to the territories. Israel has a supreme interest in strengthening the economy in the territories, upgrading the infrastructure, and creating jobs. On the other hand, we do not want Israeli patronage over whatever happens there. We announced today in the preparatory committee that Israel, together with other countries, would extend certain sums of money to help develop the infrastructure in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. As for proportions, obviously Israel, being a small country, cannot offer large sums of money like the Americans or the Europeans. However, we shall be part of the body that is organizing the funds.

[Friedman] Within a few months, Mr. Shohat, there will be two kinds of territories: Gaza and Jericho, where autonomy will be implemented first, and all the rest of the territories, which will remain under Israeli control. When discussing international financial aid to the territories, are we talking about funds that will be transferred only to the new autonomous Palestinian entity or does this also refer to the territories remaining under our control?

[Shohat] One should recall that at the same time that Gaza and Jericho receive their new status according to the document of principles, the process of early empowerment [last two words in English] will start in the rest of territories, and the Palestinians will have independent self-administration in the fields of education, health, welfare services, direct taxation, and so forth. Elections are scheduled to be held after three months, and when the autonomy authority is set up, the situation in the rest of the territories will be the same as in Gaza and Jericho. I would not make a distinction between areas in the territories. I assume that the international capital about to be recruited for investment in the territories may initially be channeled into projects in Gaza, because Jericho is such a small area. However, in general we are talking about investments in all of the territories.

[Friedman] I heard your assessment that the annual international influx of aid into the territories would total a mere $600 million. That is not much money.

[Shohat] I assume that will be the approximate scale. I cannot give a precise figure, but the level of commitments approaches such a scope. I also think that the territories' ability to absorb funds is limited. After all, the geographical dimensions are small, and there is no reason to invest billions there. I assume there is some degree of correlation [last word in English] between the sum that will be recruited and what can viably be invested.

[Dan] Mr. Shohat, you were quoted by one of the newspapers as saying that there is no reason in the world that the Israeli taxpayer should have to bear the cost of financing Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. You reportedly said that you intend to reach an understanding on this matter with the Americans. What does this mean? Are you in the United States to arrange funds for Israel's withdrawal from....

[Shohat, interrupting] No, I am surprised by this report. I never thought or said that Israel expects the United States to finance our military redeployment by increasing some grant or anything like that. This is not how things stand, and if I was quoted as saying that, then there must be some misunderstanding, because I never made those statements.

[Dan] Nevertheless, what do you mean? Were you referring to some kind of financing for Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho?

[Shohat] I do not think that we should approach the Americans at this stage with requests for financing the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment.

[Friedman] Former Prime Minister Menahem Begin once turned down a generous offer by the United States for a grant to finance the peace agreement with Egypt.

Begin declined, saying that Israel did not need any grants, and you remember what happened afterward.

[Shohat] I never heard that the Americans offered such a thing.

[Friedman] But we can ask or suggest that they make such an offer.

[Shohat] I think that the two issues are on a completely different scale. We shall first see what the military redeployment entails. However, I will not present any demands to finance the IDF's redeployment during my current visit to the United States, and today I am going to meet with the secretary of the Treasury and other administration officials.

[Friedman] Getting back to the issue of international aid to the territories, yesterday we spoke with Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel, who is with you in the United States. He said that, in his opinion, there is a large gap between the pledges of generous support for the territories and the actual checks that will be forthcoming. How do you view these promises of large sums? Do you believe they will really reach the territories?

[Shohat] Look, there was a preparatory meeting of foreign and finance ministers prior to Friday's session. At this meeting, the representatives of various countries reiterated their commitments. I believe that the figures mentioned amounted to a sum of approximately $500 million, $600 million, or $700 million per year. These are realistic sums in light of the commitments made by the preparatory committee. The final figures will be determined on Friday at the ministers meeting, but in my estimate these figures are realistic. These will be the commitments, and we will see how they will later be implemented.

[Dan] Thank you, Finance Minister Shohat.

Royal Court Source Denies King-Rabin Meeting

JN2709133993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1304 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] There are strong rumors in Israel about a presumed meeting which is said to have taken place yesterday between Rabin and King Husayn. A short time ago, an official source at the royal palace in Amman denied the rumors about a meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin and King Husayn. The Jordanian source described this report as completely groundless.

Informed Jordanian sources said King Husayn, his brother Prince Hasan, and Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali have been resting at Jordan's Port of al-'Aqabah since yesterday.

King on Peace Process, Agenda, Other Issues

JN2709173893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Sep 93 p 6

[Interview with King Husayn at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman by Jihad al-Khazin on 25 September]

[Text] [Al-Khazin] Given your attempts to explain your position during the Gulf crisis and war, at what point are your efforts to rehabilitate your ties with the Arabian Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia?

[Husayn] With respect to the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the other brothers in the Gulf, we wish to see our ties with them return to what they should be, to what they were sometime in the past. They might have to be stronger than they were. Amman has been described as the capital of harmony and accord. This is an honor to me, to Jordanians, and to Amman. We have never been proponents of discord. We have always been supportive of our nation's endeavors. We have always been for cooperation on the basis of mutual trust and concern for the interest of future generations.

At a certain point in time, our efforts, which sought to promote the interests of all, to safeguard the rights of all, to defend them, and to remedy a catastrophe that befell our nation within an Arab context, failed. We continue to hope that this effort on our part will be viewed positively, rather than negatively. At any rate, we are concerned for the normalization of ties with them. As far as I am concerned, I have never, ever, personalized issues. I have endured a great deal throughout my political life in this country. Whenever differences surfaced, I have always viewed them as differences of opinion. I have noticed, heard, and learned that some are angry with me, because they believe that I personally hurt them. If this is how some feel toward me, I am sorry. I said this at a meeting with the press a few days ago. I have never, ever, intended to hurt anybody. I have always sought to serve all. Since you have brought up the issue regarding the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in particular, I would like to seize this opportunity to repeat what I have already said. If my brother the custodian of the two holy mosques believes that I hurt him personally, it was neither deliberate nor intentional. I was concerned for him, for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for Kuwait, for Iraq, and for all Arabs. Given the events that we experienced, I felt it was my duty to demonstrate such concern. I attempted to avert an exacerbation and a worsening of the crisis through an Arab remedy grounded in concern to perform my duty toward all sides.

[Al-Khazin] What about your relations with the Sultanate of Oman, which seem to be in better shape than your relations with other countries?

[Husayn] These relations are strong and vibrant. They have never been affected by any events or developments. They were based on mutual trust, respect for dissenting views, and dialogue in the interest of bilateral ties and the Arabs. I believe that his majesty the sultan [Sultan Qabus] has been sincerely and honestly endeavoring to clear the Arab atmosphere of all the defects that have plagued it. He deems this endeavor a duty he has to perform, and we do appreciate this endeavor.

[Al-Khazin] When did you first hear of the secret negotiations between the PLO and Israel? What, in your view, are the strengths and weaknesses in the agreement?

[Husayn] I heard of the Palestinian-Israeli contacts for the first time before I left for the United States, some four months ago. There was talk of a direct contact for the first time with the Israeli Government and the decisionmakers there. The last time [I heard of the negotiations] before the agreement was announced was during President Yasir 'Arafat's brief visit to Amman before my trip to Britain. He told us of contacts with decisionmakers [in Israel].

[Al-Khazin] What was your opinion?

[Husayn] My opinion has always been the one to which I have committed myself. It is based on the position to which I have committed myself since the beginning, that is since the Rabat summit in 1974, when the PLO, and then all Arab brothers, demanded that the situation becomes as follows: The PLO is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian Arab people. There was also a demand for an independent Palestinian decisionmaking. We abided by that policy then and never deviated from it. Also, in all our contacts with the near and far in this world, we were constantly saying that the only party that can speak about, or discuss, the Palestine question is the Palestinian side, namely, the PLO, and that there can be no solution to the Palestine question unless the Palestinian side can exercise its full right to express its views and participate in the making of the required setting within the framework of a just and comprehensive solution.

[Al-Khazin] From your reading of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, do you think it will lead to a just and comprehensive solution?

[Husayn] From the beginning, our story has been one of numerous missed opportunities. Our Arab world, and particularly our Palestinian brothers and kinsfolk in the occupied territories and everywhere, are experiencing rather difficult and hard conditions. After analysis and study, I think that the decision was a brave one, which the Palestinian leadership took to shoulder its responsibilities and start working to reach a just and acceptable solution. In the light of this reality, we were surprised by the initial details. Because I think that we are only at the beginning of the road, we had no alternative but to express our support and blessing on the one hand, and, on the other, to urge all Palestinian brothers not to allow any party or feelings to separate them from one another at this critical stage. I think this is a good start, and I wish success to these efforts.

[Al-Khazin] You first expressed reservations about the agreement and then supported it. President al-Asad still has reservations and apparently feels as if the Palestinian president had stabbed him in the back. How do you assess the PLO's unilateral step to hold secret contacts with Israel?

[Husayn] I believe that the Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese positions are as follows: They support and back independent Palestinian decisionmaking and the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This position is based on the will of these states and responds to the Palestinian request since the 1974 summit. We paused at the beginning because we had provided the umbrella for the Palestinian brothers to reach the negotiations, without intervening in their affairs. We were surprised to see that the umbrella is no longer justified or needed. It took some time until we were supplied with information on what was agreed upon. We then made our decision to, first, set aside the umbrella and keep it in the vaults of history, as a process that enabled the Palestinian side to exercise its right to speak directly about the Palestine question, and, then, be in harmony with ourselves and support and back the Palestinian side and its legitimate and sole representatives in its efforts to serve the Palestinian people and tackle the issue, which is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Al-Khazin] The Jordanian government has explicitly stated that it intentionally delayed realizing any progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track until progress was attained on the Palestinian track. After the recent Palestinian-Israeli breakthrough, can we now expect quick progress in the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations?

[Husayn] We have been waiting to start things from the moment we signed the agenda, which is a list of the issues that should be discussed at the forthcoming stage, but keeping in mind, in terms of results, that all the links should be completed so that it would be a comprehensive peace. This is what we have always been calling for. We used to discard any attempt to unilaterally settle the issue. The Palestinian dimension is another dimension. Our stand is clear, in that no progress should be made, even in the discussion of the agenda, if there is no progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Being committed to our stand, we performed our duty toward ourselves and toward our cause, the principal cause, the Palestinian cause. We are the closest to Palestine. This made us support the Palestinian stand. The signing of the agenda took place, and we will begin to discuss the issues.

[Al-Khazin] The Israeli Labor Party for many years has adopted the "Jordanian option." It now seems that the Israeli government under Rabin has completely given up this option. In your opinion, what caused this strategic change?

[Husayn] With respect to the Israeli government, it might be appropriate to describe its decision as realistic and far-sighted. This is so because as long as the issue is not first tackled on a Palestinian-Israeli basis, there can never be any progress toward a comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Had the factors of weakness and strength been the only factors to be taken into consideration at this stage, the future would be a very gloomy one and would sooner or later endanger all. I believe that the Israelis and the others, perhaps, have finally realized that there is no other way but to tackle the issues on a Palestinian-Israeli level, that is the Palestinians rights on their national soil. This will pave the way for the possibility of advancing on all the other tracks toward a just and lasting peace in this region.

[Al-Khazin] But President al-Asad sees things differently. He believes the agreement was a loss to the Arab nation and has created confusion among the Arab negotiators.

[Husayn] We cannot pick a specific situation at a specific stage and place it under the limelight. At the Arab summit in Rabat in 1974, the stand was in support of independent Palestinian decisionmaking and for the PLO as the the Palestinian people's legitimate and sole representative. The situation at the time became exacerbated on this issue, but when we found that there was an Arab consensus on it, we agreed and abided by it.

On the other hand, part of the problem has been that there are too many parties who, in some cases, have different outlooks in view of their proximity or remoteness from the cause. They act, dictate, adopt positive or negative stands. The paths of many Arab leaders have crossed when tackling the Palestinian dimension. Many times, both parties were to be blamed; on the Palestinian side because it has permitted this from the start. We used to say that the Palestinian cause and Palestine in terms of Arab and Islamic rights should remain above Arab differences, and a point of attraction to all, and that no Arab party should be allowed in anyway whatsoever to interfere to the point of imposing its viewpoint, or of seeking control over any grouping within the framework of the large and one Palestinian family. Perhaps, the Palestinian side has allowed this to happen, and, perhaps, the Arab side has erred in its attempt to directly interfere in Palestinian affairs.

We in Jordan have had the ability, in terms of position and relationship, to establish the largest Palestinian organization, but we refused from the beginning to do that. We did not allow ourselves to move in that direction at all. Of course, it was difficult for us, to a certain extent, to talk about Arab coordination at a given stage, particularly in light of the cause and the recent developments in the world and their impact on the Palestine question. Maybe we, in Jordan, had justifications for being late, because we actually provided an umbrella for the Palestinians to reach the negotiating table. However, we clearly decided to support independent Palestinian decisionmaking and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative and to appeal to all the Palestinians to cooperate and not to allow any split among themselves at these difficult circumstances. Some criticism may surface. Every Arab leader may feel pain over this situation. This maybe justified. To me, to my brother the Syrian president, or to any other Arab brother directly involved in this basic cause, it is the position taken in 1974. We have to be in harmony with ourselves at all times regarding the issues that we should crystallize into facts.

[Al-Khazin] Have the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation projects been put on the shelf? Do you see any possible agreement on a Palestinian-Israeli confederation or a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli confederation, as Shim'on Peres put it?

[Husayn] The main issue is to focus on national unity. This should not be harmed in any way. This does not mean that we will harm the Arab individual of a Palestinian origin regarding repatriation, compensation, or any other issue. This applies to the Palestinian individual both here and elsewhere. Over the years, many Palestinians stayed in Arab countries and many others left for different parts of the world. Regarding the search for formulations of future relations, I believe I had a sound view which I proposed to the Palestinian leadership, namely, that there is no mistake in imagining a kind of future cooperation. We are the closest to the Palestinian cause and people. All, or most, experiments in the Arab world in this regard have failed so far. They resulted in painful setbacks, far and near. Regarding this Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, I can say it is very close, but is affected by much of what has happened and what has been said and by much misunderstanding for many years. Now, we are standing by our brothers and kinsfolk with all our energies and capabilities. We prefer to build the future from the bottom to the top and on sound and strong bases, God willing. Any talk about a future relationship regardless of the name will take place when circumstances become appropriate. Such circumstances will exist only when people exercise their right to think freely and choose whatever they want. We hope such circumstances will be crystallized in the future for the Palestinian Arab people on their national soil. Only then can we discuss its ideal details, and at the same time, we will work, cooperate, and provide whatever we can on all levels and from the bottom to the top.

[Al-Khazin] Two days ago, a Jordanian government official stated that the Palestinian refugees in Jordan will not be allowed to vote in the Jordanian elections and the Palestinian self-rule elections. Do we understand from this that the Jordanian elections will be postponed until it is clear if the Palestinians in Jordan will be allowed to vote in the occupied territories, and, consequently, will they not vote in Jordan?

[Husayn] We chose the path from which we will not deviate: The path of democracy and sharing in decisionmaking by everyone. It is the path of respecting human rights on this homeland's soil, the path of entrenching national unity among Jordanians of various origins and descents. In a previous phase, this was the objective for which we formed a royal committee representing all political schools of thought in this country.

This committee drafted the national charter, which was endorsed, and to which we committed ourselves. The current circumstances created for us a host of new issues and possibilities. Therefore, I frankly and honestly cannot tell you—although we should make a firm decision on this issue within a few days—if there will be a change in our plan to hold elections in November; we will reach the date on which the resignations of those wishing to run for the elections should be accepted. However, there has thus far been no definite view on a final situation. Moreover, there is a possibility of postponing these elections, and many people urge such postponement. So, we can see the features of the future path and safeguard our national unity, and so the election campaign—if held now at a time when we cannot say that we all are up to the required level of responsible words or deeds—would not turn into a battle between supporters and opponents and between those who advocate a certain fanaticism. If this happens, it will not be in the interest of the march under these crucial circumstances.

There are also questions about who will be allowed—if the question arises—to cast their votes in the elections in the Palestinian arena in particular. These are the questions on our minds in this phase regarding whether we will proceed with our previous decision on holding elections in November or postponing them for a certain period of time. There will be several possibilities concerning anyone's entry into the arena and harming the image of this one people, regardless of other considerations.

[Al-Khazin] You said that the option will be open for Palestinians in Jordan to decide whether they want to remain as Jordanian citizens or become Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories after Israeli withdrawal. How do you view the concept of dual nationality?

[Husayn] We have discussed this issue. In fact, it is hard for an individual to express what is on his mind. Regarding this and any other issues in our Arab world, I find it difficult to understand how can anybody leave this part of the world and go somewhere else to get a new nationality. As for the Palestinian dimension, this, in my opinion, should not affect a Palestinian's rights to return or to receive compensation. At the same time, if he goes to any part of the Arab homeland and spends many years of hard work and effort, he does not have such rights.

From this premise, the concept of dual nationality is valid in some cases regarding the people in this part of the Arab world as well as the entire Arab world. This could be a way to give people some sort of peace of mind and something they deserve. If we talk about Arab unity and a united Arab nation, then everyone's rights should be maintained and respected. I believe that many examples in the past indicate that there is something which I hope everyone will be able to tackle in the future whether it is an issue of peace or any other issue.

[Al-Khazin] Do you consider the PLO a partner in making decisions that deal with citizens under Jordanian sovereignty?

[Husayn] I hope to be very clear about Jordan. We do not have any fears or complexes. I believe that this country is stronger than ever because of the unity, cohesion, and openness it is enjoying. Everything has come to the surface. As for the other dimension, concerning any Jordanian citizen after this stage, irrespective of his origin, and even if he is of Palestinian origin, there are no complications concerning his right on his national soil or any other rights he has over there. If he chooses to stay and become part of this country, which I think will be the majority's opinion and inclination, then this decision will be respected. Anybody of Palestinian origin will be treated in this country like anybody else. Everyone enjoys the same rights and shoulders the same duties. We will do our best to make this country a model for others in terms of democracy, taking part in decisionmaking, construction, and respect for human rights. However, we are now at a stage in which we do not exactly know how things are going. For example, in the new election law, we focused on the one-man-one-vote. How are we going to deal with this issue now and still say that the citizen here has the right to vote in Palestine and here, for instance? This is one of the problems we have to tackle. We will not tackle this problem in a way that harms our national unity, but in a way that will satisfy everyone. This issue was not part of our calculations when we decided to hold the elections in November. Therefore, in a few days, we will reach a final decision on this issue, God willing. Questions could be raised here. Some may return and others may be allowed to return? Who are those who will return and how many are they? These are the justifications for postponing the elections or the justifications by those who are calling for the postponement of these elections at this stage.

Prince Departs for U.S. With Message for Clinton

JN2809105193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said that his visit to the United States is aimed at continuing and following up the close and continuous contacts between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

In a press statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY before departing Amman for the United States today on an official visit of several days, his highness added that he will deliver a message from His Majesty King Husayn to U.S. President Clinton.

Three Parties Reject Agenda Accord With Israel

JN2709124893 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic 27 Sep 93 p 8

[Text] The Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party-Hashd, and the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party have issued a joint statement rejecting the Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreement. The statement says:

The Jordanian Government's signing of the so-called Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreement following the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord falls within the framework of the free concessions made at the expense of the national and pan-Arab rights and constants.

This agreement, which constitutes a comprehensive framework encompassing the principles of an agreement paving the way for a bilateral peace treaty with Israel, conflicts with the official interpretations. This agreement threatens Jordan's security, sovereignty, and interests and opens the door wide to a comprehensive normalization with aggressive Israel. It allows Jordan to accommodate and submit to the Israeli demands whether strategically or on the level of water, security, normalization, and so forth.

The agreement deviates from the comprehensive and just solution and the principle of land for peace. It gives credibility to the humiliating Israeli-Palestinian agreement and restricts Jordan's action toward the issue of security, both as a state and people. It allows for interference in our national domestic affairs and consecrates Israel's concept of a solution to the Palestine question because the agreement deals with the issue of refugees from bilateral and humanitarian, not political, aspects. This will lead to the eternal settlement of Palestinians in Jordan and the disavowal of the Palestine question, which is the national cause of a people whose problem can be solved only by emphasizing their right to repatriation.

The statement adds: The agreement recognizes, gratuitously and in advance, Israel's borders on the basis of the [British] mandate borders even before Israel has withdrawn or agreed to withdraw from a single inch of the Arab territories occupied in 1967 or from southern Lebanon. Furthermore, the agreement justifies the exclusion of Jerusalem from the occupied territories in the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. The Jordanian reservation is confined to the point that the territories subjected to the Israeli military government in 1967 should not be harmed. This point is subject to interpretations, including the Israeli interpretation, which considers Jerusalem a liberated land.

The so-called agreement has recognized Israel's right to security, water, and full normalization in a manner that secures Israel's needs and interests and qualifies it to play a central role in the regional political, economic, and security order which the United States is trying to establish so that it can secure its hegemony over the region in cooperation with Israel.

Concluding, the statement says: We declare our rejection of this agreement and what it entails because it will endanger the homeland and lead to the loss of the Palestinian rights—a loss entrenched by the humiliating Gaza-Jericho accord and complemented by the agenda agreement.

We call on the people's masses to continue to express their rejection of this agreement and to adhere to the pan-Arab constants of the homeland in a manner that preserves our Palestinian and pan-Arab rights.

Dinar Said To Remain Territories' Currency

JN2609122093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Sep 93 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P. V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian dinar will remain in circulation in the Israeli-occupied territories pending further developments in the Middle East peace process, a senior official of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) said Saturday [25 September].

Jamal Salah, executive director of the Research and Studies Department at the CBJ, also said that Jordanian banking rules would apply to reopened branches of the Kingdom's commercial banks in the occupied territories.

Dr. Salah was addressing a two-day seminar on Jordan's economy organised by Economic Perspectives, a monthly newsletter.

The Jordanian dinar will continue to be in circulation in the occupied territories "for the next one or two years at least," he said, noting that the long-term prospects for the currency remaining in force there depended on the shape and nature of implementing the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement signed on Sept. 13.

Dr. Salah did not elaborate. But his comments, which came in reply to questions at the seminar, countered assertions in underground leaflets that a "secret annex" to the Israel-PLO accord stipulated that the Israeli shekel will replace the dinar in the occupied territories.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last week categorically stated that there was no secret annex to the agreement and accused opponents of the accord of resorting to "false propaganda."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, presenting the accord for approval by the Knesset (parliament) last week, also said there were no secret additions to clauses to the accord, signed under U.S. and Russian sponsorship at the White House.

Senior U.S. officials have also made similar denials.

No official estimates are available on the volume of Jordanian dinars in circulation in the occupied territories, but unofficial assessments put the figure at around JD 150 million.

Despite the Israeli occupation and Jordan's severance of legal administrative ties with the West Bank in 1988, the two million Palestinians in the occupied territories continue to use the Jordanian dinar, which is also accepted by Israelis.

All business transactions and accounts, including inventories, are in Jordanian dinars.

Dr Salah told the Amman seminar that discussions were continuing on the reopening of Jordanian banks in the occupied territories.

Without going into details, he said, "We expect the situation to be the same as that prevailed before 1967," when Israel occupied the territories and Jordanian banks closed their operations.

"The general Jordanian banking law (applied by the CBJ) will apply to the reopened branches," he said.

At least two Jordanian banks have submitted applications to the CBJ for permission to reopen some of their closed branches and start new ones in the west Bank.

Israeli insistence on retaining its central bank's control over the branches and signing an "official" agreement with the CBJ were the major snags holding up the applications, sources said.

The CBJ refused to let the Israeli central bank to have total control over the branches, the sources said. The Kingdom also resisted the Jewish state's quest to sign an official document with Jordan (as represented by the sought-for accord) before the two sides sign a peace agreement, they said.

Dr. Salah restricted his comments to monetary terms and policy without elaborating on the political comments. However, his comments were taken to indicate that Israel might have shifted its position following the signing of the accord with the PLO.

Only one Palestinian-owned bank, The Bank of Palestine, operates in the occupied Gaza Strip. A recent report said the bank was planning to open a branch in the West Bank town of Jericho, which is expected to house major segment of the Palestinian self-rule authority envisaged under the Israel-PLO accord.

Paper: Country, PLO Should 'Turn Over New Leaf'

JN2509123093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Sep 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Joint Committees and Future Jordanian-Palestinian Relations"]

[Text] Now that Jordan and the PLO have agreed to hold meetings soon to reactivate their joint committees to deal with the results of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Jordanian-Palestinian coordination has become an urgent national and pan-Arab need. Commitment to this coordination, faithfulness to it, and promotion and development of it to the highest level have also become major tasks for the two sides. This is due to the interrelated economic and social ties between Jordan and our people in the self-rule areas. The two sides also have joint interests. These issues should be dealt with and an understanding should be reached on each issue, including the issue of refugees and the displaced.

Jordan and the Palestinian leadership need to turn over a new leaf of mutual trust and frankness, and to clarify every issue that has anything to do with current and future Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

Reaching understanding on the rights of Palestinian refugees and the displaced in Jordan, and on their participation in Jordanian political life or in the self-rule area, including their participation in parliamentary elections, should be discussed in detail during the next Jordanian-Palestinian talks. This issue should occupy the position it deserves on the agenda of the joint committees.

We believe that coordination and understanding on this issue must be aimed at providing the brothers who were displaced in 1967 with the necessary facilities, and at encouraging them, by all material and moral means, to guarantee their return to their homeland. It is unreasonable to see Israel continuing to encourage Jews in the Diaspora to migrate to occupied Palestine, particularly to occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, while the legitimate Arab owners of the land are prevented from returning to their homeland. Otherwise, why all this national and pan-Arab struggle to regain the occupied territories if the displaced brothers are not guaranteed their right to return to their homeland and to reconstruct it?

The self-rule area, and later the expected Palestinian state, will be in need of all the efforts, powers, and energies of the sons of Palestine, including the displaced. It will also be in need of Arab and international support on all levels.

Jordan and the Palestinian leadership did a good job in forming committees to discuss current and future Jordanian-Palestinian relations, to resolve pending issues, to define the joint national and pan-Arab interests, and to build the bases and pillars of new Jordanian-Palestinian relations. Future Jordanian-Palestinian relations must not be based on emotions only.

King, Prime Minister Meet Russia's Adamishin

JN2509163693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Today at the Royal Hashemite Court, His Majesty King Husayn received Anatoliy Adamishin, Russia's first deputy foreign minister. They exchanged views on issues of mutual interest, bilateral relations, and the latest developments, particularly relating to the peace process. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and the Jordanian ambassador in Moscow. It was attended on the Russian side by the head of the African and Middle East Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, and the Russian ambassador in Amman.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali also received Anatoliy Adamishin and his delegation in his office at the Prime Ministry at noon today. They reviewed developments in the peace process and bilateral relations.

The prime minister also reviewed Jordan's consistent positions and role, which made a basic contribution to independent Palestinian decisionmaking in order to regain all the Palestinian people's national and legitimate rights. Al-Majali said Jordan belives in and works for a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Jordan has always supported independent Palestinian decisionmaking since 1974, he added.

The prime minister said continuing contacts and coordination with the Palestinian side aim to discuss joint matters in various fields. He expressed hope that at the world economic conference which will be held next month Jordan will deservedly receive aid proportional to the great burdens it is shouldering as a result of both the successive forcible immigrations and the impact of the Palestine question.

Regarding bilateral relations, Dr. al-Majali stressed the need to implement the joint cooperation agreements formerly concluded between the two countries.

For his part, Adamishin lauded Jordan's rational policy and positive role in regional stability and development. He stressed the importance of the Jordanian role in the Middle East. He urged further future bilateral cooperation and coordination, stressing his country's concern for continuing its relations with Jordan and its support for it.

Elections Said Postponed; King To Issue Decree

NC2809094693 Paris AFP in English 0822 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Amman, Sept 28 (AFP)—The Jordanian government decided Tuesday [28 September] to postpone multi-party parliamentary elections which were to have been held on November 8, a government source said.

The source said the decision to postpone the vote was taken at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday. A royal decree from King Husayn officially announcing the postponement would be issued later Tuesday, the source added.

No new date has been set for the first multi-party legislative elections in the kingdom in 37 years, said the source who spoke on condition of anonymity. [passage omitted]

Islamic Front Leader: No Reason To Postpone Elections

JN2709114193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Sep pp 26, 20

[Text] Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front [IAF], has issued a statement regarding the possibility of delaying parliamentary elections.

In his statement, al-Farhan noted that the negative reflections of the Gaza-Jericho agreement are many and necessitate serious study so that they will not affect our national unity, which we consider a top priority for sincere political action. Undoubtedly, the issue of parliamentary elections is a sensitive one which should be viewed within this framework.

He added that within the current given facts, he does not see that there are extraordinary circumstances that necessitate postponing parliamentary elections one and a half months before they are held.

He concluded by saying that if pressing circumstances require the delay of elections, the higher interest of the homeland necessitates reinstating the dissolved parliament to resume its role until the general circumstances allow for holding parliamentary elections.

Debts Decline Result of Austerity Measures

JN2609102293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Sep 93 p 4

["Sunday's Economic Pulse" by Fahd al-Fanik]

[Text] The central government budgets over the last two decades have shown fresh borrowing in excess of debt repayments. It is only logical to expect foreign indebtedness to rise steadily from one year to another. How come then that Jordan's outstanding indebtedness fell during 1992 and 1993 down to 6.5 billion?

Several factors contributed to this pleasant outcome. Those factors are:

1) The cancellation of major military hardware purchase contracts, such as the Mirage and Tornado aircraft. The financial commitments to these purchases were part of Jordan's external indebtedness. The decision to cancel reduced the commitments by roughly one billion dollars.

2) Jordan bought back the huge commitment towards the Soviet Union at a cash discount of around 82.5 per cent. The nominal value of that debt was $750 million. It was written off against a payment of $80 million and commodity exports of $52 million.

3) The payment on time of instalments due on loans that are not subject to rescheduling, such as loans related to the IMF, the World Bank, Arab funds and all new debts made after the cut-off date of March 31, 1989.

4) The buy-back deals made in the secondary market, where the Jordanian treasury was active in buying back its own commitments at a discount of around 62 per cent. Jordan was paying 38 cents for the dollar. Around $450 million of commercial debts were paid off.

The latest framework agreement reached with London Club of commerical creditors will allow Jordan to buy back more debts at a discount of 61 per cent, to the tune of $50 million, but not exceeding $75 million. The $50 million mentioned above will thus be sufficient to buy back $128 million of nominal debt, which will further reduce the outstanding indebtedness without jeopadising the currently adequate reserve of the Central Bank.

Those reserves did decline a little bit from the peak reached in 1992, but they are still within the reasonable level and could be considered excellent when we take the reduction of indebtedness at the expense of reserves into account.

In this respect, I would like to break the news that the latest reestimate of the figures of the 1993 budget showed a net repayment of debt for the first time in Jordan's history. The deficit before financing section of the budget will be lower than the deficit after financing. This means that repayment during 1993 will exceed drawings on fresh credit if the Londong Club agreement is signed and implemented before the end of the 1993.

The importance of this pleasant fact is that the Jordanian treasury reached a stage where its revenues are enough to cover its expenditures. Borrowing is no more needed to finance current expenditure but only to offset the burden of servicing old debts.

This achievement indicates that the austerity programme, the prudent fiscal policies, the sacrifices made by the Jordanian people and accepting a higher tax burden and a lower standard of living finally paid off and gave fruits.

There is no easy way to achieve financial self-sufficiency. Reducing the tax burden does not create an independent country and a proud people.

A word of warning is warranted: Most of the factors that helped reduce debts are not sustainable and may not recur in the coming years. On the other hand, the outstanding debts of Jordan, although small in absolute terms, are huge in relations to a small economy of $4.2 billion of gross domestic product (GDP).

Our officials bragged so much about the debt reduction, which we obtained from London club, that the international community came under the false impression that Jordan needs no more. In this respect, we should point out the fact tht the gross debt due to London Club is no more than $750 million, or 12 per cent only of Jordan's gross indebtedness. The balance represents state-to-state debt now under Paris Club.

Without a substantial relief of Jordan's debts, the Jordanian economy will not be able to take off, the standard of living will not improve considerably and the talked-about prosperity under peace will remain a myth.

Mu'tah Trial: Prosecution Testimonies Conclude

JN2709110093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Sep 93 p 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Marka—The State Security Court Sunday [26 September] heard the last two prosecution witnesses for the Mu'tah University case where 10 men are accused of conspiring to assassinate His Majesty King Husayn and to replace the regime with an Islamic caliphate state.

Both witnesses were military officers who testified against one of the defendants, a former member of the Royal Escort Unit.

The first witness, a military security officer, testified that he had searched the defeandant's home in the Sahab area, southeast of Amman, last May. He named some of the items he, along with three other officers, had confiscated, namely books, letters and tapes of "religious" nature.

The second witness, who works as a driver for members of the royal family, testified that the same defendant—who had recently graduated from Mu'tah University—had come to him late one night in 1992 to help him get a job with the royal family.

But when Presiding Judge Colonel Hafiz Amin asked him to identify the defendant, the 45-year-old witness pointed at the wrong defendant as the one who came to him that night. The witness, who lives in the same town as the defendants, said he only saw him that one night last year.

"It was dark and I noticed he was slightly bearded," the witness told the court. "But I think it was that one," he added, pointing at the wrong suspect.

The witness said that the defendant, who was accompanied by his brother in a pick-up truck, had given his name and explained that he grew his beard because he was on leave and would shave it off when he returns to work.

The uniformed witness said he helped the defendant get the job he sought, and that he never saw him after that night.

The 10 defendants, two of whom are being tried in absentia, are also accused of trying to change the Jordanian Constitution through "illegal and violent means," as well as belonging to an illegal group, the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP).

Four of the defendants, two of whom are at large, are alleged members of the ILP, and five are former students at Mu'tah University, a military academy south of Amman. The prosecution charged that the defendants were planning to kill the King at a graduation ceremony on June 26.

The first witness told the court that he had gone to the home of the defendant, showed a search warrant from a prosecutor of the State Security Court to the suspect's brother, and seached his room. He explained that among the confiscated material were tapes with labels on them, including a label which read: "Statement by 'Ata Abu-Rishtah."

Mr. Abu Rishtah, a senior member of the ILP, along with more than a dozen others, are currently detained, but they are not being tried in this or any other case.

The witness said he did not hear all the tapes. He briefly explained that the books contained subjects on Islam, prayers, mosques, and one book on Jesus Christ. He also said he confiscated an application form for the "Islamic University."

During the cross examination of the witness, the defendant's lawyer, 'Umar Damrah, tried to establish that the books and tapes were legal and are sold in the open market. The witness also told the defence that he found out that the suspect's father was an imam of a mosque.

Mr. Damrah created some confusion in the courtroom when he showed the witness what he said was a copy of the official confiscation list. After looking at the lawyer's copy, the witness said that the signature on the list looked like his, but it was not.

It was not clear what Mr. Damrah was trying to prove, and he later refused to reveal to the Jordan Times where he obtained his copy of the confiscation list, nor what he intended to do with the witness' testimony.

The witness also told the court that he did not know what he was looking for when he was assigned to search the house, nor where the defendant was at the time, but that he knew it had to do with the Mu'tah University plot.

Following the testimonies, the defence strongly objected to Prosecutor Major Muhannad Hijazi's submission of documents, which he described as books and leaflets of the ILP. The defence argued that the documents, which were not made available to the defence, should not be introduced as evidence because they were not found in the possession of any of the defendants.

"We ask the court not to accept the introduction of these documents since they have nothing to do with the case, and they can be found in the open market," defence lawyer Salih al-'Armuti said. "If we are to try everyone with such books, then 90 per cent of the population would be arrested."

Despite the objections, Col. Amin, who heads the three-man military panel, overruled the defence request and accepted the documents as prosecution evidence.

But the judge ruled against the prosecution's introduction of a 1969 court verdict which found members of the ILP guilty of plotting to topple the regime and changing the Constitution through violent means.

Col. Amin, apparently agreeing with the defence that the court file in question was irrelevent to the ongoing trial and the defendants involved, said he would not accept the old verdict as evidence.

The court postponed its ruling until Wednesday on whether to enter the testimonies made by the defendants to the prosecution after the defence insisted that the testimonies were "taken under severe duress."

"These testimonies were ripped out of the defendants by force," Mr. al-'Armuti told the court. "They were made after they were severely tortured during their detention at the general Intelligence Department (GID), and were threatened to make these statements or else return to the (GID) prisons."

Mr. al-'Armuti described the testimonies as "null and void," adding that the defendants were still "under threatening conditions where they remain in solitary confinement" at al-Zarqa' military prison.

Meanwhile, court sources said that specialised doctors were Sunday scheduled to conduct medical and pyschological tests on some of the defendants to report on any signs of torture.

Journalist Held For 'Slandering' Security Court

JN2709112193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Sep 93 pp 1,3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—A Jordanian journalist covering the Mu'tah University trial at the State Security Court was arrested in front of the courthouse on Sunday [26 September] on charges of slandering the court.

Ramadan al-Rawashidah, a reporter for al-Ahali weekly, was detained by policemen outside the court, eyewitnesses and judicial sources said.

Al-Rawashidah had slandered the State Security Court by trying to cast doubts on the neutrality, independence and integrity of this court,"a military judicial source told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. [quotation mark as published]

The source referred to an article Mr. al-Rawashidah wrote in al-Ahali on Sept. 20, where a sub-headline read: "Court delays referring defendants to doctors."

Mr. al-Rawashidah wrote that the defence in the trial, where 10 men are accused of trying to assassinate His Majesty King Husayn, had motioned the court that doctors and psychiatrists conduct tests on some of the defendants to detect any signs of torture.

The defence alleges that the defendants, five of whom were students at the Mu'tah University, a military academy south of Amman, were tortured during their detention at the general Intelligence Department (GID). The reporter wrote that the defence request had not been implemented.

What appeared to have annoyed the court, however, was the headline, which the judicial source described as "slander against the court."

The sources said they were also provoked by Mr. al-Rawashidah on Sunday when he stood outside the court with a placard which read that the court would not allow him inside the hearings and calling the move "unjust."

The security officers at the gates of the military court on Saturday prevented the journalist from going into the building after they withdrew his entry permit. He apparently tried to enter the court again on Sunday when the order for his detention was made by Major Muhannad Hijazi, who is prosecuting the Mu'tah trial.

Before Mr. al-Rawashidah's arrest, al-Ahali sent a letter to Minister of Information Ma'n Abu-Nuwar protesting against the court's banning of the reporter from attending the trial, saying it was as a violation of the Press and Publications Law, which guarantees the journalists the right of access to information. The paper asked the minister to intervene and allow its reporter to attend the trial.

Al-Ahali, a mouthpiece for the left-wing Jordan People's Democratic Party (Hashd), issued a statement on Sunday calling on "all forces concerned with democracy, human rights and public freedoms, to raise their voices against the arrest and to call for Ramadan al-Rawashidah's immediate release."

Muhammad Farhan, an editor of the weekly, told the Jordan Times that the military prosecution had no right to arrest his colleague for any reason.

"If the court felt it was slandered, it should have realised that the chief editor is responsible for everything that is published, and legally sue the newspaper for slander," Mr. Farhan said. "If there is anybody that is authorised to deal with such issues, it is the Ministry of Information and the Press and Publications Department, not the State Security Court."

The editor described Mr. al-Rawashidah's arrest as "a clear violation of his constitutional rights which protects freedom of peaceful expression."

Al-Ahali also contacted Arab and international human rights organisations to look into the case of its reporter, saying that Mr. al-Rawashidah was taken to al-Juwaydah prison where he would be kept for two weeks pending investigation.

The military court sources said that Mr. al-Rawashidah will be questioned by the state security prosecutor Monday before referring his case to an Amman civil court in the same day.

The sources said that Mr. al-Rawashidah violated Article 191 of the penal code, which punishes anyone who slanders any official institution.

In the statement, al-Ahali described the detention of its reporter as a "dangerous step which contradicts Jordan's democratic trend and a blow to the rights and freedom of expression and a threat to every journalist who practises professional and credible coverage."

Al-Ahali added that Mr. al-Rawashidah had a right to "convey the defence point of view, especially when the prosecution point of view always finds its way into the media, which are under the control of the authorities."

On Saturday, the judge presiding over the Mu'tah trial, Colonel Hafiz Amin, warned journalists against publishing the minutes of the trial and said the court would prevent reporters who did and take legal action against them.

But al-Ahali editors said their paper did not publish the minutes of any of the six sessions and therefore did not violate the court orders.

Al-Hariri on 'Positive' Meeting With Clinton

NC2809072793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 28 Sep 93

[News conference by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri with unidentified correspondents after al-Hariri's meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in New York on 27 September—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Prime Minister, what did you discuss with President Clinton?

[Al-Hariri] We discussed several issues. The atmosphere was good. President Clinton showed full understanding of the Lebanese situation and Lebanon's request. He promised to do all he can to help. He said unequivocally and candidly that the United States is committed to the peace process and to a total and comprehensive peace. He repeatedly stressed this theme, the most important point in our discussion.

[Correspondent] Prime Minister, did he request anything?

[Al-Hariri] Our discussions were not a question-and-answer session.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] We did not discuss this in detail. The general atmosphere of the meeting was good, positive; that's the most important thing. I sensed that President Clinton is interested in peace, in Lebanon, and in helping Lebanon. This was clear in his remarks.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] in the peace talks and the Lebanese-Israeli track?

[Al-Hariri] If they want to do something, they will do it.

[Correspondent] Did President Clinton ask Lebanon [words indistinct] some proposals?

[Al-Hariri] Clearly, the U.S. officials were positive and their remarks demonstrated that they understand the situation in Lebanon and that they are ready to help Lebanon.

[Correspondent] What about bilateral ties?

[Al-Hariri] They were discussed within the same framework.

Foreign Minister on 'Ambiguous' Gaza-Jericho Deal

PM2709123193 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 19-25 Sep 93 p 33

[Interview with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Ibrahim 'Awad in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] ['Awad] Official Lebanon appears to be more critical than others of the "Gaza-Jericho First" agreement. What are your criticisms of this agreement?

[Buwayz] As everyone knows, a few days before the agreement was announced, meetings of the cordon states were held in Beirut. We knew that this agreement was under discussion, but no one from the Palestinian delegation participating in these meetings said that the agreement was imminent. And even when we questioned members of the delegation and asked its head, Faruq Qaddumi, he stressed to us that the agreement was still a remote probability facing numerous difficulties, in short, it was a long-term issue.

There are people who say that the Palestinian delegation was not acquainted with the developments of this agreement and that only four Palestinians had knowledge of it—which represents a defect in the level and effectiveness of coordination among the Arab parties.

Our second observation is about the content of the agreement, and I must point out here that we are neither exercising one-upmanship over anyone, nor teaching anyone lessons, nor telling anyone how to obtain their legitimate national rights. We understand the state of fragmentation our Palestinian brothers are experiencing and take into account the financial and geographical pressures to which they subjected and their yearning to obtain a patch of Palestine's territory from which to proceed to build their homeland. But at the same time we say that it is erroneous to accept the Gaza-Jericho agreement while it is ambiguous and not part of an integrated plan whose end is known. They called this agreement "Gaza-Jericho First," but we see the title as being "Gaza-Jericho, what next?"—to avoid saying "Gaza-Jericho first and last."

There is another observation about this agreement, namely the Palestinians' acceptance of weak and meager powers in Gaza and Jericho. Assuming that the Israeli Army is going to retain powers on the borders and that this army is going to intervene on the ground whenever necessary, and assuming that Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is going to visit Gaza under the Israeli Army's protection, all this gives only weak powers to the Palestinians and represents a meager ceiling for them—which we do not want for the Palestinian brothers. We wanted for them an expanded self-rule, a real self-rule not limited to municipal matters. Thus we conclude that this plan will reflect negatively on the course of the negotiations, and the Israelis will use it a a blackmail card to be brandished in the face of other Arab delegations—which is very embarrassing for us.

The Palestinians are also open to criticism for agreeing to divide up the international resolutions, which include resolutions ruling out partial repatriation. It is in no one's interests to divide the international resolutions. The Americans presented a similar offer to us in Madrid over two years ago. Former U.S. President George Bush proposed to me the idea of negotiating with the Israelis to recover Jazzin first, but our reply was the refusal to sit at a negotiating table to discuss Jazzin, because Jazzin is one-fifth of the issue, not the entire issue. We agree to sit down at a negotiating table to discuss complete Israeli withdrawal from the South provided that Jazzin is the first phase. And we unequivocally refuse to permit the entire issue to be reduced to one topic or one paragraph of the problem.

['Awad] Some people fear that the Gaza-Jericho agreement could result in negative effects on the Lebanese stage.

[Buwayz] The Lebanese situation is sufficiently buttressed. This issue is a Palestinian affair, and I do not think that the Lebanese will make the same mistake this time, turning their stage into an arena for others' wars.

['Awad] You were the first Arab and Lebanese official to meet President al-Asad on the day that followed the announcement of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. What was discussed at that meeting?

[Buwayz] The stage we are going through is a historic stage in which we are trying to turn the page of decades of conflict and war and to draw the features of a new map for the region. Thus we believe that options are delicate and sensitive, as are the steps which we must take. So there must be deep consultation and coordination with the brothers in Syria, because of Syria's distinguished role in this regional game. My meeting with President al-Asad revolved around the Syrian and Lebanese positions on the plan and its effects on the course of the peace negotiations.

['Awad] There are reports about active contacts to hold an Arab summit. Are you working in that direction?

[Buwayz] There is difficulty in uniting the Arabs at present, and this requires preparation. Thus we believe that bilateral contacts are sufficient at present.

['Awad] Many people say that there is a disagreement between Prime Minister al-Hariri and you over a number of issues concerning the Foreign Ministry. What is your opinion?

[Buwayz] All I can say is that there is no disagreement among the people in government in Lebanon over any of the basic issues concerning Lebanon. There may be a variety of methods and means of achieving the aim, but all are agreed on the future view, the strategy for action, and the aims.

['Awad] Does that mean that there is complete understanding between you and Prime Minister al-Hariri?

[Buwayz] I have said what I want to say in this connection, and I will add nothing.

['Awad] A final question concerning the presidential election to be held in Lebanon in two years' time: Is it true that Minister Faris Buwayz will contest the election and is already working on this?

[Buwayz] It is premature to talk about that issue. Every political situation has its own men, thus I imagine that the features of the presidential election have not become clear yet. As we know, the presidency of the republic in Lebanon is linked to or to some extent affected by international and regional conditions, and no one but God knows what the outcome of these conditions will be in two years.

Ja'ja' Said Emigrating to France To Avoid Charges

PM2809061993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Sep 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Ja'ja' Quits Political Activity, Emigrates With His Wife To France"]

[Text] Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Lebanese sources in the French capital have emphasized that Samir Ja'ja', leader of the "Lebanese Forces," has decided to quit political activity and live with his wife outside Lebanon.

The sources said that Ja'ja', who left Lebanon four days ago for France and then South America, "wants to stay away from Lebanon for the time being without this being interpreted as voluntary exile."

However, other sources say that "Samir Ja'ja''s position in Lebanon is no longer as comfortable as it used to be and that the protective umbrella that surrounded him and prevented him from being harassed has been taken away from him, especially since the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which has caused a sudden and radical change in a number of alliances in the region."

They say that, in addition, the Lebanese Forces' position in Lebanon at present is like that of an accused person. Officers and senior officials in the Forces are at present being pursued by the Lebanese state on various charges, most importantly the charge that a number of Lebanese Army officers were killed either by them or on orders from them before and during the liquidation war between General Michel 'Awn and Dr. Ja'ja'.

The sources believe that if the Lebanese state continues the current investigations it is bound to reach the point of questioning Dr. Ja'ja' or maybe leveling charges against him in his capacity as the Lebanese Forces' supreme leader, both militarily and politically. This is why Dr. Ja'ja' decided to leave the Lebanese scene at the appropriate time, with the intention of returning later when the new situation in the Middle East becomes clear. The sources say that "the Lebanese Forces and their media organizations in Beirut are trying to play down the importance of Samir Ja'ja''s trip, denying that it is emigration, but this is not the case. The coming weeks will reveal how long Ja'ja' absence from Lebanon will last."

Japanese Red Army Factions' Return to al-Biqa' Denied

NC2709211393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] The National Defense Minister's Office today denied a local newspaper report about the return of some

Japanese Red Army factions to al-Biqa' and their receiving training from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The office said the report is maliciously fabricated to harm the process of regaining confidence in Lebanon. The office asked everyone to give precedence to higher national interests over other issues, such as propaganda, asserting that the necessary legal measures will be taken against those who publish false news that compromises the general national security.

Minister Views Economic Cooperation With Israel

TA2609113793 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Sep 93 pp 1, 15

[Report from Washington by Sever Plotzker]

[Text] "I definitely see room for comprehensive Syrian-Israeli economic cooperation." This observation was made yesterday by Syrian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Muhammad al-'Imadi in an exclusive conversation with YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

The Syrian minister, who is attending an IMF and World Bank conference in Washington, did not demur at all on being interviewed by an Israeli reporter.

The Syrian minister, who is also the chairman of the Group of 24 [G-24] developing countries, told me genially: "As you know, it is our stand that a comprehensive and sweeping peace agreement must be attained for the benefit of all. After that, we will be able to develop economic ties."

Later in the talk, when I asked the Syrian minister if he meant that Syria and Israel could establish full economic and trade ties and cooperation, he replied: "Certainly. Why not? We will be glad to."

[Plotzker] Did the debates of the G-24, which you chair, discuss aid for the Palestinian economy?

[Al-'Imadi] We did not discuss it, but we received and perused the World Bank report on foreign aid to the Palestinian economy.

[Plotzker] The World Bank assumes that considerable private capital will be invested in the Palestinian economy. Is that feasible?

[Al-'Imadi] In my experience, private capital is not invested in infrastructure. It arrives only after infrastructure is built, after there is stability, a functioning economy, and peace. Investments in infrastructure and the foundations of production require the aid of countries and international organizations.

I have visited many undeveloped Arab countries, such as Sudan and South Yemen, and in my opinion, their problem is the sparseness of aid for productive investments, for specific projects that can build up the economy. That is the main thing.

[Plotzker] The G-24 is urging to extend aid to countries "whose needs were not taken into account in advance." Were you referring to the Palestinian economy?

[Al-'Imadi] I was referring also to the Palestinian entity.

Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, the silver-haired Syrian economy and foreign trade minister, is a very famous figure in international economic circles who has a powerful standing in his own country.

Iraqi Communists Regret PLO's 'Unilateral Action'

JN2409161593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Damascus, 24 Sep (SANA)—The Iraqi Communist Party has deeply regretted the PLO's unilateral endorsement of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in isolation from Arab parties involved in the peace process.

In a statement today, the party said this unilateral action has weakened the common Arab position that aims at liberating all occupied Arab territories. The statement said the battle is not yet over, and that partial agreements or solutions will not achieve a just and comprehensive solution that guarantees the restoration of all legitimate Arab rights.

Commentaries Reiterate Need for 'Comprehensive' Peace

Withdrawal Seen as Only Means to Peace

JN2709155593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1132 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The will of the international community stresses daily the need to reach a just and comprehensive peace. It affirms that Israel should respond to the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly regarding full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

Likewise, the conviction that Israel is still far away from a just and comprehensive peace is increasing everyday. This is because Israel refuses to commit itself to withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, circumventing the principle of land in return for peace.

In this regard, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin acknowledged twice in the last two days that Syria demands full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and insists on the removal of the settlements in the Golan. All agree that the Syrian demand means Syria is concerned about a just and comprehensive peace, about a lasting and successful peace, and about regional stability, calm, and security. Rabin declined to mention these aspects of the Syrian demand.

However, he who is not concerned about peace is the one who obstructs peace and deliberately avoids the requirements and components of peace. These are the prominent points of Israel's policy, which attempts to complicate the peace process and aggravate the situation. If this is not the case, then what is the meaning of Israel's continued adherence to the occupied territories? What is the meaning of Israel's continued procrastination, tricks, and circumvention of the basic, real conditions and elements of peace?

What, then, is the meaning of Israel's publicity about its own phased plans and solutions, and the replacement of a just and comprehensive solution by separate deals and partial solutions contrary to a lasting and successful peace?

As we intensely review the maneuvering and misleading Israeli policy, we do not need to make much of an effort to show that Israel is not considering peace, is still far away from peace, and is still insisting on keeping Arab territories and denying Arab rights. By all means, all this is regarded as serious defiance, not only of Arab, but the international community's will. It is a provocative circumvention of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

Israel and other countries concerned with the Middle East crisis and regional peace know that without an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and other occupied Arab territories peace cannot be achieved. Promoting and activating the peace process cannot be made on one track at the expense of other tracks. This is because a comprehensive solution is the real guarantee of an activated peace process.

Syria thus emphasizes the principles of a just and comprehensive peace, stemming from a clear position that needs no explanation or interpretation. This position is represented by the need for all Arabs to regain their usurped territories and the need for a full Israeli withdrawal from these territories. This is because a just peace will end the occupation once and for all, guaranteeing the Arabs' legitimate rights, away from injustice, aggression, repression, and trickery, maneuvering, and deception.

President Hafiz al-Asad has asserted: We want peace based on justice—peace that will achieve full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and regain the Palestinian people's rights. We have frequently said Syria will not abandon an inch of the Golan, and that a compromise on the territories is out of the question. Israel is aware that geography does not achieve security, and that separate agreements do not achieve peace, he added.

No doubt, by adhering to its principles—the principles of a just and comprehensive peace, on whose basis the peace process was launched—Syria reaffirms its regional and international political credibility. This will guarantee the achievement of the objectives, set in the documents and pledges—objectives for which the peace process has continued. Israel, however, has thus far not wanted this process to reach its desired objectives.

Peace 'Impossible' Without Syria

JN2709070993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "No Peace Through Bypassing Facts," AL-BA'TH says: The parties and forces that tried to bypass facts have started to recalculate and openly point to the mistakes which could become a sin that destroys everything.

In Western capitals and some Eastern states, there have been statements by senior officials asserting that there will be no peace in the Middle East except for the peace to whose conditions and foundations Syria adheres. The United States, which called the Madrid conference and sponsored the Washington negotiations, also acknowledges that peace in the region will not be established without Syria's acceptance. The reason for this is not because Syria plays an obstructive role, but because it adheres to the constants advocated by the United States when it created the appropriate climate for the Madrid conference and for starting the peace talks.

AL-BA'TH adds: Now, while efforts are in full swing to create healthy conditions that serve peace in the region, we must return to President al-Asad's assertion that: We seek a peace that we do not fear, and the party that does not respond to the conditions of peace is the one that obstructs it.

AL-BA'TH goes on: We do not think anyone in the Arab region would believe that those who have abandoned the framework of accord and coordination can establish their positions without the peace process being comprehensive and integral. That is why those who have departed from accord have started to look for pretexts, saying they are for comprehensiveness. However, who would trust them as long as they think that their barrier of fear has been removed? Will Israel provide protection for any Arab if he acts in good faith toward Arab rights?

AL-BA'TH concludes: Bypassing facts is impossible. Peace in the region without Syria is also impossible. Our condition for peace is the entire land on the bases laid down by the land-for-peace initiative and guaranteed by Security Council resolutions.

'Comprehensiveness' of Solution Stressed

JN2409155693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Syria has repeatedly warned of the dangers a unilateral peaceful settlement with Israel poses, not only to Arab rights but to the cause of true peace in the region in general.

Syria has been careful not to be carried away by any partial solution, no matter how advantageous this solution could prove for its own interests. This attitude stems from Syria's view that comprehensiveness alone can make peace endure, just as justice is what will establish this peace on foundations that safeguard it from future collapse.

Comprehensiveness is not a Syrian whim. It is based on the unity of the conflict between Arabs and Israel. It is at the heart of international resolutions on whose basis the peace process was launched. These resolutions do not speak about Israeli withdrawal from this or that front of the conflict. Rather, they address withdrawal from the

1967-occupied Arab territories, and the fact that the peaceful settlement should guarantee the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Syria's comprehensive vision of the solution has been behind its constant concern for coordination between various Arab parties involved in the peace process. It is behind Syria's constant concern for thwarting Israel's unilateral vision. This vision has always seen unilateral solutions as a way to deal with each Arab party on its own in order to wring the most concessions possible from that single party, if any concessions are left.

All those who watched the peace negotiations can recall how often Israel's attempts to circumvent the principle of comprehensiveness clashed with a strong Syrian position insisting on this principle. Likewise, they can recall how Syria foiled every verbal trick that Israel employed for this purpose, such as the phrase peace that stands on its feet, to which Israeli negotiators clung. The Syrian delegation insisted that comprehensiveness can never be understood to mean that peace can stand on its head.

Syria's position has not changed—publicly, inside the negotiating halls, or at the Arab coordination meetings. This position has remained unambiguous and unchanging, despite the attempts at oneupmanship by some parties, who often spoke about Arab coordination as a net to protect them from falling into the Israeli trap. But they were the first to pierce this net.

It was natural and in character to describe the way Israel took on a single Arab party in a partial solution as a historic achievement and a model of peace in the Middle East, in addition to Israel's description of the solution as a major deal that would open the gate for what is yet to come. This Israeli position came as no surprise. It was in line with Israel's unilateral approach. The surprise, however, was that an Arab party agreed to be taken on alone, giving Israel a chance to realize its view of the solution.

Israel did not hesitate for a moment to seize this opportunity. No sooner had the carnival of the agreement closed than Israeli Prime Minister Rabin announced—while still a few steps away from the site of the carnival, during which the word historic was worn out—that he plans to shelve the comprehensive objective of the peace process to devote his time to digesting what he achieved in the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

A practical translation of this statement means Israel will now start squeezing the Palestinian side, after it has dealt with it on its own. Meanwhile, it will create every obstacle to prevent any progress with the rest of the Arab parties concerned with a just, comprehensive solution. This will be a prelude to obstructing this solution, until it is finished with the party that it took on alone, eating its pith and throwing away its skin.

The statements of Israeli officials show they want to use the element of time to squeeze and digest Palestinian rights through the Gaza-Jericho agreement, whose end is open to the unknown. They want to employ this agreement, which does not say anything about suppressing Zionist activity in the West Bank and Gaza, as a cover to continue this activity.

The element of time was transformed before and after the Gaza-Jericho agreement from an element of pressure on Israel into an element employed in its interest. To show this, we point out how Israel used to demonstrate eagerness—even if only in appearance—to hold more rounds of negotiations in Washington to give the world the impression it is serious about seeking peace. This was in spite of its lacking any real seriousness inside the negotiating halls. Now, it has made the world believe the peace deal in the Middle East has been achieved by the Gaza-Jericho agreement. It is maneuvering to block what has been achieved and to obstruct the peace process, which must be obstructed until what has been bitten is digested.

Finally, it must be noted that all Israel's current attempts at distortion and confusion, targeted against all those who speak about defective partial, unilateral solutions, hide an Israeli purpose to cover up the fact that its aim behind adhering to such solutions is to prevent reaching a just, comprehensive solution that the world is eager to have and without which no peace can be established.

Afghanistan

Shiite Leader: Rabbani Trying To Destroy Nation

BK2809011193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1129 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Sept 27 (AFP)—The leader of a Shiite minority faction, 'Abdol Ali Mazari, publically accused the Afghan president of destructive tendencies during a political seminar in south Kabul Monday.

"We advise the state not to issue a law which is going to destroy the country," Mazari told an audience of 500 gathered at the Economics Faculty of the Kabul University.

"By his actions in establishing a constitution commission the president is taking a new step towards dividing and devastating the country," Mazari declared.

"By officially recognising the Hanafi rite as the only religious rite for Afghanistan—are they trying to impose their rite on us?" asked Mazari.

In Afghanistan, the majority of the population are Sunnite Muslims who belong to the Hanafi rite, but there exists the minority Shiite Muslim community which follows completely different rites, mostly Jafferi.

The interim constitution, now under discussion in Kabul, describes the official Muslim religion of Afghanistan as Sunnite Hanafi only.

"Are they able to change our rite to their rite? And will we accept it?" Mazari demanded angrily.

"Obviously not," the leader of the Shiite faction Hezb-e Wahdat stated emphatically.

Mazari also objected to the fact that the constitution commission members were appointed by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani in person and not by the mojahedin factions themselves.

"No consultation took place with any party before establishing this commission," Mazari stated.

Leader of the Afghan ethnic Uzbek minority, General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, a former pro-communist militia commander who today heads a powerful army in the north, sent a letter of support to Mazari, which was read out at the Wahdat seminar.

Dostam apparently also regards the commission as illegal, as his Northern Islamic Movement of Afghanistan has no representation on the commission.

In regard to the interim constitution Dostam's posture clouds the political picture in Kabul, for while the Uzbek warlord has always been an ally of Wahdat, he has also been considered a supporter of Rabbani.

The seminar was also addressed by two women, who gave lectures on women's voting rights, which are fully endorsed by Hezb-e Wahdat.

Some of the more extreme, if minor mojahedin factions, are believed to object on traditional grounds to giving women the vote.

A national general election to decide a new president and prime minister is scheduled for mid-1994 but agreement on the nature and exact timetable of this election has yet to be formalised.

Shiite Parties Assail Constitutional Commission

LD2809112593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The commission in charge of compiling Afghanistan's provisional constitution completed its task by ratifying the country's provisional constitution in 101 articles and 10 chapters.

According to a report of the Central News Unit correspondent from Kabul, the clauses of this constitution have not been fully declared yet, but the release of two of its clauses has provoked various reactions. One of these clauses has completely ignored the rights of the Shiites to follow the Shiite sect's jurisprudence. Another clause has postponed to the unspecified future the issue of women's rights to be educated and to learn.

The two main Shiite parties of Afghanistan, the Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami] and the Islamic Movement Party [Hezb-e Harakat-e Eslami] have issued a statement stressing that basically the formation of a commission to compile Afghanistan's provisional constitution is an illegal act and contrary to the resolution issued by the jihad group leaders at their meeting in Jalalabad.

'Heavy Fighting' in North Leaves 55 Casualties

LD2609220093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Heavy fighting is continuing between the forces of the National Movement of Northern Afghanistan and the Supreme Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Ali-e Nezarat] and the Jami'at-e Eslami of that country.

According to IRNA in Kabul, in heavy clashes between forces under the command of General 'Abdul Rashid Dostam and those of General Isma'il Khan, in Ghurmaj region in the northern province of Badqin [place name as received], 55 troops belonging to Isma'il Khan's forces were killed and wounded and another 300 were captured by Dostum's forces.

India

Police Fire on Striking Truckers; One Killed

BK2709162393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] The center has reiterated its stand to convene an urgent meeting of the Transport Development Council if the truckers call off their strike unconditionally. The offer was made by the minister of state for transport, Mr. Jagdish Tytler, when a delegation of the All India Motor Transport Congress led by its President Mr. A.U. Sharif called on him in New Delhi today. Their talks lasted for over one and half hours. Our correspondent understands that the talks were held in a very cordial atmosphere and there is optimism of an early solution. The transporters delegation are now discussing the offer made by Mr. Tytler at their national action committee meeting. They will give their reaction to the minister this evening when they meet him again.

Today in Uttar Pradesh, striking Mini Truck Operators Association has called off their strike. This follows talks between the state transport commissioner and the representatives of the association in Lucknow.

In Tamil Nadu, one person was killed and two seriously injured when the police opened fire on rioting transport truck operators near Soolamangalam in Salem this afternoon. Earlier, over 500 truck operators were arrested for attempts to picket the Kovai Express [train] bound for Madras.

Ruling Party Candidate Wins Tamil Nadu By-Election

BK2709131893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] In the Palani Lok Sabha by-election in Tamil Nadu, the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] candidate, Mr. Kumaraswamy, has been officially declared elected. The returning officer of the constituency on receipt of clearance from the Election Commission announced the result officially this afternoon. Mr. Kumaraswamy won by a margin of over 44,800 votes defeating his nearest DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] rival, Mrs. Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan. The AIADMK has wrested the seat from its former ally, the Congress-I, which had been holding it since 1977. The polling in the constituency was held on the 20th of this month and with today's victory, the AIADMK strength in the Lok Sabha has gone up to 12.

Opposition Leaders Comment

BK2709132293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 27 (AFP)—The Indian opposition on Monday rejoiced at the shock defeat by the ruling party in a crucial byelection to parliament, warning that it would have a bearing on balloting due in four states in November.

An opposition party on Sunday wrested the Palani constituency in the state of Tamil Nadu from Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress (I), relegating it to third spot in a keenly-contested battle.

The victorious party was the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), which rules Tamil Nadu and broke a 16-year alliance with the Congress (I) this year.

India's main opposition, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), said the defeat showed that the Congress, which had held the Palani seat since 1977, was losing its grip on its southern stronghold.

"It has once again testified that the Congress has lost the mandate to rule the country," K.N. Govindacharya of the BJP said.

Spokesman Hari Kishore Singh of the centrist Janata Dal (People's Party) said the Palani debacle "showed that Rao has failed to provide leadership both to the country and the Congress."

"The Congress support base is fast eroding," added A.B. Bardhan, a leader of the Communist Party of India.

There was no comment from the Congress (I).

Govindacharya and Hari Kishore Singh said the Palani outcome, on top of the Congress defeat to communists in two other byelections over the last one month, would have an impact on elections in four Indian states in November.

The November polls, to pick local governments, would be the first major test of popularity for Rao since he took power in June 1991.

In Tamil Nadu, a state of some 55 million, the Congress (I) had boasted that it would retain the Palani seat and drub the AIADMK.

The AIADMK-Congress alliance swept the parliamentary and local polls in the coastal state in 1991 held after the assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi at an election rally in Tamil Nadu.

Tourism Minister Outlines Promotional Measures

BK2709115893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] The introduction of multi-entry visa facilities and payment of fees by credit cards and checks by foreign tourists are some of the decisions taken by the Tourism Ministry to promote tourist arrivals to the country. Facilitation committees would be set up at airports, hotels, and other tourist establishments to help foreign visitors. This was announced by the tourism and civil aviation minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, at a function in New Delhi to commemorate World Tourism Day today. He made it clear that while the government wants more tourists to visit the country, there will be no compromise on environmental protection. Mr. Azad said states have been advised to check haphazard development and unauthorized building activities which threaten environment and ecology.

External Affairs Minister Reasserts Kashmir Policy

BK2809042893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, has reiterated that India is prepared to begin a dialogue with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue as soon as Pakistan stops sponsoring terrorism in Kashmir. He was addressing the Asia Society at New York yesterday. Mr. Dinesh Singh said any attempt by Pakistan to internalize the Kashmir issue will further complicate the problem. Mr. Dinesh Singh said the Simla accord has kept the peace between India and Pakistan for 22 years and provided a forum to settle all bilateral problems between the two countries. During the one-hour speech, the external affairs minister referred to the close relations and similarity between the U.S. and India, the global changes resulting in the end of the Cold War, importance of liberalized market and economic structure, and the dangers terrorism poses in the world today.

Closure of Pakistani Foreign Missions Viewed

BK2709121993 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 27 Sep 93

[M.B. Balaji commentary]

[Text] Pakistan's closure of its embassies and information centers in some countries is a desperate bid to cut government expenditure with an economy badly hit by a defense budget mounting steeply every year and declining export earnings. Pakistan hopes to save about 1 billion rupees by this measure. Pakistan has decided to shut embassies in Germany, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Tanzania, Namibia, Somalia, and Mexico. It will also close down information centers in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Italy, Canada, and Australia. The closing of the information centers, which were engaged in anti-India and proterrorist propaganda, is not expected to reduce, in any way, the virulence of Pakistan's anti-India tirade. Pakistan is now concentrating more in the United States and Britain as centers of its campaign against India. It has even hired three British public relations firms to dish out anti-India propaganda material.

The closure of the embassies and information centers coming along with the reduction in Pakistan's federal divisions from 40 to 34 will render over 2,500 people jobless. These austerity measures are in sharp contrast to the country's burgeoning defense budget that shoots up by hundreds of million [rupees] every year. A very large part of the country's defense expenditure is used for training and equipping militants in India's Punjab and Kashmir.

Pakistan's defense budget for 1993-94 is 89.1 billion rupees, showing an increase of 6.95 million rupees over the previous years. Its defense budget spending is consistently disproportionate to its gross national product—GNP. Several of its Western donors have warned that any future aid will be linked to cuts in defense budget. Islamabad's defense expenditure GNP ratio in relative terms is twice that of India. Western analysts say that Pakistan with $400 GNP per capita every year is one of the world's poorest countries where opportunities for raising the level of development and living are hindered by the heavy defense burden. The defense spending, which went up seven folds from 1978 to 1991, has crippled the country's economy. It takes nearly 40 percent of the government's expenditure and is 20 times more than the annual spending on health and education. But, the adverse effect of the defense budget on the economy has not led to any soul-searching among those at the helm of affairs. They are continuing with their reckless defense spending and are being feared to invest about $2.5 billion in the defense sector in the next two to three years. But, will it really help? In fact, what Pakistan now needs is to inject some life into its economy and not some half measures like closing of missions. With virtually no hostile neighbors on its borders, it hardly needs such a massive defense budget.

The defense budget that is wrecking the country's economy is dictated by the irrational anti-India attitude cultivated by the country's leadership. The Pakistan leadership must realize that India wants peace and good neighborly relations with it. Keeping Kashmir as a bone of contention and training and equipping terrorists will only boomerang on it. The strains of its policy toward India are no doubt evident in its economy. A revolutionary change of attitude toward New Delhi will not only enable to cut defense spending, but will also help Islamabad to devote its resources and rescue its sinking economy.

The country's policy of training and arming militants has alienated it from even other countries traditionally considered its friends. The situation virtually brought the United States on the brink of declaring Pakistan a terrorist state. Even the nations of West Asia, generally considered Pakistan's allies, have acted harshly toward it. Saudi Arabia has expelled a large number of Pakistanis and has asked Islamabad to withdraw its military personnel training the Saudi armed forces. It is high time that Pakistan strongly reconsiders its stand on several issues not only in the interest of its development but also to maintain its respect in the comity of nations.

Paper Criticizes Policy on Tibet

BK2309134193 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 14 Sep 93 p 4

[By Satish Kumar: "The Tibet Issue and India-China Ties"]

[Text] Before going into the quetion of Tibet, if we look into the annals of history, we will clearly understand where we have committed a mistake. Tibet, which is called the "roof of the world" is situated in the form of a "buffer state" between India and China. It has been surrounded by the erstwhile Soviet Union in the east, China to the southeast, and India in the north. According to China's official statistics, the total population of Tibet is 3 million, whereas Tibetans living in India number 6 million.

Till 1949, Tibet was an independent state. In the same year, China started occupying it as a result of its authoritarian rule. Within a few years, China fully established its control over Tibet. Despite calling Tibet an autonomous region, China is disturbing the balance of population by settling its people there. It is also disfiguring the cultural face of Tibet, which is a lonely, unarmed, tolerant, and timid nation, by thrusting Chinese language and culture at gunpoint on its people. Without any warrant, the Tibetan workers are subjected to injustice. According to a 1990 survey, the per capita income of a Tibetan was 80 dollars and his life expectancy was 40, the lowest in the world.

It is an unfortunate thing for us that, in accordance with the priorities of Jawaharlal Nehru's foreign policy, we acknowledged Tibet as an autonomous region of China. It is true that at that time, we had some constraints. India had just been liberated from the English yoke. The economic condition was also very delicate. Nehru was not in a position to displease a big neighboring country like China. On the other side, the Soviet Union's indirect pressure on India to adopt a reconciliatory approach toward China and not to interfere in Tibet made it helpless. Probably, this was the first shortcoming of India's foreign policy. Undoubtedly, Nehru was the greatest ideologist. His ideology is clearly reflected in his foreign policy. Through pancasila [the five principles for peaceful coexistence], he wanted to achieve international acclaim. He made China also a party to it and signed a peace pact with China putting the Tibet question backstage. India committed another Himalayan blunder by succumbing to its emotional slogan: "Indians and Chinese are brothers". India opposed the propoal to discuss in the UN General Assembly the human rights violations in Tibet and the protection of Tibetan culture. But within a few years, Nehru's ideology and his faith were shattered with the Chinese invasion in 1962. This happened because Nehru did not fully understand the politics of China and there was a great difference in perception between Nehru's ideology and Zhou Enlai's practice. Long ago, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel said that we should always keep a watchful eye on China.

For the first time, India realized the importance of Tibet and understood how disadvantageous it would be not to have the "buffer state". It would be wrong to say that since then there has been some basic change in India's foreign policy on the question of Tibet; actually, Indian policy has become double-faced. On one side the government of India is indirectly supporting the [illegible] Lama and other organizations connected with the Tibetan movement, and on the other, it refuses to admit the human rights violations in Tibet. It is true that the people of Tibet in general and the Dalai Lama in particular are looking at India not only for assistance but also for support. India's vague and unstable policy not only goes against Tibet but goes against its own national interests and is tarnishing its image at the international level.

Whenever China agrees to hold official talks on Tibet, it keeps the main point backstage, whereas the Dalai Lama says that there should not be any precondition for talks; there should be open talks on all aspects of the issue.

The visit to China of Rajiv Gandhi in 1988 was regarded as the beginning of a new era, but unfortunately here also India did not improve things. During his visit to China, our late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in a sense inflicted an injury on himself by giving a wrong interpretation of history. He said Tibet is an integral part of China. Rajiv Gandhi was hopeful that by saying so China would not hesitate to let India stake its claim on Jammu and Kashmir. However, China did not do anything of the sort. On careful examination, it will be clear that Tibet and Jammu Kashmir are an integral part of India as they were established through a duly signed pact. Yet, in a way China has committed aggression on Tibet. China has also refused to implement the 17-point pact signed between Tibet and China. Thus, Rajiv Gandhi not only returned empty handed but also surrendered the Tibet card to China. In 1991, Chinese Premier Li Peng visited India. No significant discussion was held at that time also.

There is no doubt that China remains alone in the new world order. After the decline of Communism, China has become the only powerful country which is still holding the thread of communism.

On the other side, the United States has also started focusing on the question of Tibet. The informal meeting of President Bill Clinton with the Dalai Lama is a clear indication of this. The UN Senate has declared Tibet as an illegally occupied territory. Whatever the case may be, this can only favor Tibet. With a view to mustering international public opinion, the Dalai Lama met with several world leaders, including British Prime Minister John Major.

Jungles are being cleared on a massive scale in Tibet. The result is that during the rainy season, the Brahmaputra is in spate because of the Tibet river. The data between 1987 and 1990 is clear proof of this.

China has converted Tibet into its nuclear trash can. It is harming the ecological balance of Tibet. By dumping the nuclear trash on Tibet, China is playing with the lives of its people. Thus, China, ecologically, has put the Indian subcontinent in a very deep crisis.

As per its proposal, China is going to open a 40,000 mw hydro- electric power plant on the banks of the river Jamuna. This project in itself is considered to be the biggest in the world. Nevertheless, Tibet and the Himalayan region is considered to be an earthquake-prone area. If China launches that project, it will prove harmful not only to the Tibetans, but to India as well, which is adjacent to that region.

Agricultural Cooperation Accord With UK Signed

BK2709133693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] India and Britain have agreed to expand cooperation in the field of agriculture, horticulture, and fisheries. The minister of state for agriculture, Mr. S. Krishna Kumar, and the visiting British minister of state for agriculture, Mr. Michael Jack, discussed business expansion possibilities and areas for joint ventures at a meeting in New Delhi today. The agriculture secretary, Dr. M.S. Gill, told the British business delegation that India is interested in boosting exports of horticultural products apart from the export of rice and other traditional commodities. The visiting British business delegation will have further discussions with representatives from the industry and the private sector.

Rao Meets Irish President, Discusses Terrorism

BK2709163393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Ireland has invited India to set up joint ventures in economic fields. The Irish president, Mrs. Mary Robinson, conveyed this when she called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, in New Delhi today. She said her country has great admiration for India's economic development. Mrs. Robinson said Ireland is a member of the European Economic Community and is interested in sharing its industrial, economic expertise with India for mutual benefit. She said her country wants to further strengthen the friendly ties by giving a greater economic content in their ties.

Mrs. Robinson was given a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this morning. She arrived in New Delhi last night on a three-day official visit to India. To coincide with her visit, a three-day festival of Irish films began in New Delhi this evening. It was inaugurated by the minister of state for foreign affairs of Ireland, Mr. Tom Kitt. The minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. K.P. Singh Deo, presided over the inaugural function. In his welcome speech, Mr. Singh Deo said the film festival will help bring the people of the two countries closer and thereby strengthen the bonds of friendship further between India and Ireland.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, called on the visiting Irish president and held talks with her on bilateral and international matters. The prime minister apprised Mrs. Robinson about the problem of the Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir. The discussions between the two leaders covered the scope for cooperation in the field of agriculture and economic areas.

Earlier, the Irish minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Tom Kitt, called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, and held talks with him.

Iran

UAE Response to Island Talks Welcomed

LD2709170793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] In the wake of the publication of a news item concerning the willingness of officials from the UAE [United Arab Emirates] to have direct talks with high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the spokesperson of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced:

We welcome such a change in the stance of the UAE authorities. He added: The invitation to Shaykh Hamdan bin Zayid, UAE state minister for foreign affairs, is still on, and, as we have often stated, the Islamic Repubic of Iran is ready to have talks without any preconditions.

Quoting a high-ranking UAE Foreign Ministry official, AFP has said that, contrary to its previous stance on the Iranian islands of the Persian Gulf, the UAE is ready for direct talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

President, Saudi King Discuss Raising Oil Prices

LD2709120593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] During a telephone conversation this afternoon, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd discussed cooperation between Tehran and Riyadh, issues of mutual interest, particularly OPEC cooperation and oil price stability.

During the telephone conversation, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the worthy role played by Iran and Saudi Arabia in OPEC, stressed the need for the two countries' to cooperate in stabilizing and raising oil prices to reach real prices of similar commodities.

The president also, after positively evaluating the two countries' potential to expand regional cooperation, welcomed the strengthening of bilateral ties.

King Fahd, too, while expressing delight for the increasing level of cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia, stressed the importance of the two countries' joint effort within OPEC, adding: At the ongoing OPEC session, the Iranian and Saudi oil ministers can prepare the grounds for stabilizing oil prices through talks and greater exchange of views.

Velayati Views World Issues With UN Counterparts

LD2809100493 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] New York, Sept. 28, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who is currently here to take part in the 48th U.N. General Assembly, met his counterparts from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Ireland Monday.

Tehran-Dhaka cooperation at Islamic and international gatherings, the forthcoming visit to Tehran of speaker of the Bangladesh parliament and the first Iran-Bangladesh joint commission were among topics Velayati discussed with his Bangladeshi counterpart, Mostafizur Rahman.

In another meeting with Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsalla the two sides discussed latest developments in Afghanistan and Kabul's ties with neighbouring countries.

Iran's support for the establishment of peace and stability in Afghanistan and Tehran-Kabul cooperation at international and Islamic gatherings to gain assistance for reconstruction of Afghanistan were also raised in the meeting.

In another development, Velayati and his Irish counterpart Dick Spring discussed expansion of Tehran-Dublin ties and the second Iran-Ireland joint commission to be held in Dublin.

Velayati left Tehran for New York Sunday. He is to deliver a speech on various world issues at the U.N. General Assembly and to meet over 50 officials durig his 9-day stay here.

Armenia Said Enjoying 'Overt' Support of West

NC2709133093 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 Sep 93 pp 14-15

[Unattributed commentary: "Yerevan and the New Round of Savagery"]

[Excerpts] Only a few days after the 31 August cease-fire extension, Karabakh again became the scene of extensive attacks by Armenia's aggressive forces against Azerbaijani territory. [passage omitted]

Frankly speaking, the Armenians are enjoying the overt and covert support of Western circles and Moscow. In a recent interview with an American news agency, the Armenian foreign minister tried to portray the West's assistance to the Yerevan government as aid from Armenians residing in the West and said: "The Armenian communities in America, Europe, and some Asian countries are the major suppliers of the needs of Yerevan and Stepanakert—the center of Karabakh."

The UN Security Council too, despite Baku's expectations, has taken no useful steps to end the crisis. Resolutions 822 and 853, which call on the conflicting sides to show self-restraint and highlight the need for the Armenian forces to withdraw from Azerbaijan, merely constitute a weak step by the UN Security Council on the war in the region. [passage omitted]

But the adventurist and suppressive government of Yerevan should know that the region we live in has taught aggressive governments some good lessons. No country occupied with the strength of the bayonet and its use is official and the aggressors will one day be punished for their crimes and mischief. If today the Armenian Government is unaware that no change in geographic boundaries is internationally accepted, it will realize this tomorrow when its aggressive hands are cut from Azerbaijan's boundaries and its forces are thrown out.

Karabakh is an inseparable part of Azerbaijani territory and the existence of a bunch of treacherous Armenian mercenaries in Karabakh who call themselves the Karabakh Government cannot change this reality.

The statesmen in Baku too should accept that relying on God, depending on popular support, refraining from self-seeking objectives, and discerning between their regional friends and foes and conforming their strategy on this basis are the only ways to alter the complicated conditions to the benefit of the Azerbaijani nation.

'Arafat Caught in Gaza-Jericho 'Zionist Trap'

LD2709184593 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Athens, Sept. 27, IRNA—From Indonesia to Morocco and from South Africa to the Central Asian Muslim republics, the Islamic movement has rejected the Gaza-Jericho agreement as a "Zionist trap" in which the PLO-chief Yasir 'Arafat was caught.

The secular Arab supporters of the accord accuse the rejectionist camp of making loud noises just to oppose the accord.

But the Islamic opposition to the 'Arafat-Israeli agreement is based on sound reasons and arguments.

The Gaza-Jericho accord sanctions and condones the use of force and violence to achieve a political aim which itself violates the United Nations charter and all international laws and agreements.

Is there any sane person who doubts that the Zionist state was not created in the Islamic heartland by brutal force and military might on account of which millions of Palestinians were forced to flee their occupied homeland?

The agreement leaves three central and basic issues hanging in the air: the problem of occupied al-Qods [Jerusalem], the right of return of millions of Palestinians in diaspora and the issue of Jewish settlements in Palestine.

The fate of four million refugees who represent 60 percent of the total Palestinian population was thrown into oblivion.

The Palestine question concerns the entire Islamic world and no single person or organisation has the right to reach a deal without prior consent and approval of the Islamic world.

The agreement even ignores U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 calling on Israel to withdraw from Arab lands occupied during the 1967 war.

It is true that the situation in the Arab world is in its worst condition and the Palestine question had been relegated to the sidelines due to inter-Arab divisons and rivalries, but does the struggle of a people has a time limit, so that when it reaches that limit it abandons its arms and struggle and accepts whatever is offered to it?

The struggle of a people does not stop except when its goals are achieved no matter how long and difficult the path.

When one generation passes away and the goal is not achieved the torch of struggle should be passed on to the next generation.

There is widespread fear that the agreement will result in a kind of a civil war among the Palestinians.

It is also no secret that the Zionists agreed to sign the agreement for no love to Palestinians but due to the pressure of the intifadah.

The Zionist occupiers were on the verge on fleeing from Gaza, not because of any effort by the PLO, but because of the heroic uprising.

They faced the same Islamic struggle in Gaza like the one that forced them to flee from Lebanon in 1982-85.

If the uprising continues the Israelis will not be able to hold on for long in the land they set up their illegal entity.

By accepting limited autonomy on Gaza Strip and Jericho, 'Arafat has virtually tried to abandon the whole of Palestine on behalf of all the Palestinian people without having any mandate to speak on their behalf.

But the eruption of the uprising was a slap in the face of the PLO and secular Arab rulers and hence they will never be able to control it.

Lebanon's Nasrallah Meets Martyrs Foundation Chief

LD2709222393 Tehran IRNA in English 1954 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Beirut, Sept. 27, IRNA—Secretary General of the Hizballah Party of Lebanon Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah told visiting head of the Martyrs Foundation of Iran Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahimian here Monday that despite the accord between Yasir 'Arafat and the Zionist regime the course of the future of Palestine will be determined only by the Palestinian people.

In related news, the vice secretary general of the Hizballah Party of Lebanon, Shaykh Na'im Qasim, said in Ba'labakk of Lebanon Monday that the present juncture is extremely problematic for the Muslim world.

He said the accord between Yasir 'Arafat and the Zionist regime is not binding on Muslim and Arab nations, and added that the coming days will demonstrate the fact that the Zionist entity despite its private accord with 'Arafat it will not be immune to the "pounding attacks of the struggling people of the region."

He criticized the Lebanese Government for having suppressed the demonstration of the Lebanese Muslims as a token of their feelings about the compromising accord and said the gesture by the Lebanese Government was simply an effort to convince the United States and the Zionist regime that it has the upper hand in Lebanon.

The Iranian official Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahimian arrived in Beirut Saturday.

Majles Debate Bill on Video Piracy

LD2809101493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] During an open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles today, a bill permitting the use of organs of the dead for transplantation was rejected in a written ballot which was taken after its first reading. There were 112 votes cast against the bill and 86 votes for, from a total of 210 votes. The bill proposed that in special circumstances organs of those who are dead, or are without question brain dead, if suitable, be used for transplantation on bodies of the patients who need them.

Also according to a report by our parliamentary correspondent, during the same session a bill on how to punish and increase the punishment of those who engage in illegal audio-visual activity was debated. The bill was presented to the Majles after being signed by 120 deputies. It was given a single urgency priority. The single urgency priority of the bill was approved. The deputies who signed the bill propose six months to five years imprisonment, the payment and return of damages caused, and a cash fine of 2-20 million rials—beside the punishment for forgery—for any person who engages in any kind of action to present illegal audio-visual works as legal.

During today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles also an export import bill, returned by the Guardian Council, was raised and the amendments proposed [by the Guardian Council] were approved.

Pakistan

Sattar Hails Clinton Remarks on Kashmir

BK2809080193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has drawn world attention to the Pakistan-India dispute over Kashmir. In his first address to the UN General Assembly yesterday, he said that bloody ethnic and religious strife and civil wars are continuing from Angola to Kashmir. He also referred to the cooperation between big powers after the end of the Cold War. The U.S. president said UN peacekeeping operations should be adapted in keeping with contemporary needs. He proposed the establishment of a headquarters for the UN peacekeeping force and suggested that its personnel who are involved in planning have access to information throughout the world. He also proposed an international agreement providing for a ban on the production of enriched uranium and the use of plutonium for military purposes.

Observers say that this is the first time a U.S. President has referred to the Kashmir issue in the UN General Assembly. These observers feel that President's Clinton remarks might kindle a ray of hope for the people of occupied Kashmir who are struggling for their right to self-determination. An observer said the U.S. President has drawn world attention in the real sense to the Kashmir issue.

Talking to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar has welcomed President Clinton's speech. He said the U.S. president has focused attention to most crucial issues being faced by the international community and has stressed the need for boosting the capacity of the United Nations to ensure peaceful resolution of disputes. He added that the U.S. President has said that Kashmir is a region which poses a threat to peace. The foreign minister said that being the superpower and a member of the Security Council, the United States is in a better position to resolve the Kashmir issue. He said that there has been positive reaction to several other issues mentioned by President Clinton. They include respect for human rights, restriction on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, promotion of democracy through UN peace efforts, the lifting of restrictions on trade, and free markets. Abdus Sattar said Pakistan desires closer cooperation with the United States in these spheres. The Indian delegation has made no immediate comment on the remarks.

Government Urged To Reject U.S. 'Package'

BK2509094593 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 21 Sep 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Kashmir Issue and Pakistan's Nuclear Program—Two Separate Issues"]

[Text] The strenuous efforts by the United States to control the proliferation of nuclear weapons in Asia are intensifying, even though unilaterally, and appear to be moving toward the completion of their first phase with Pakistan and China said to be the specific targets of these endeavors. President Clinton is a U.S. leader who reposes immense trust and confidence in his administration, but the other day he himself verbally threatened China with further sanctions if Beijing conducts any nuclear tests.

In the meantime, Islamabad is rife with extremely vexatious rumors about certain U.S. measures and the arrival of a comprehensive "package" to make Pakistan roll back its nuclear program, while the caretaker government has continued to comfort and assure the people in a very eloquent manner. It is not easy, however, to assuage people's concerns and apprehensions about this entire situation, because no fetter has yet been invented which can restrain the thoughts of a human mind. Whenever any report comes in or when any person of high race from Washington appears to be coming to Islamabad these days, dozens of doubts and apprehensions arise in the minds of people about the future of Kashmir and Pakistan's nuclear program. It seems that the Kashmir problem and the fate of Pakistan's nuclear program will be decided simultaneously, but the question is: Will that decision be equitable?

All the rivers flowing through Pakistan originate in the Kashmir valley, and the United States is nursing a dream of preparing a "package" of measures against China by establishing an "autonomous zone" and its own base in this very region. Perhaps the U.S. has become restless to have communism eliminated from China after its demise in Russia. It is, however, worth noting that if Washington itself has begun to stoop as low as adopting these frivolous methods, then what justification is there for preventing the People's Republic of China from conducting new nuclear tests, utilizing its right to self-defense. A former U.S. secretary of state very pompously presented the view that "the maintenance of force as an answer to force is, actually, the only effective means of ensuring global peace." The relevance of John Foster Dulles' idea cannot be ignored, especially for the developing countries of the Third World, which face the threat of colonial domination by the United States, India, and Israel. They reserve the right to adopt any path or acquire any technology to build and maintain their force against the forces of these three countries.

The United States is a very great nuclear power and in the face of it, if China takes steps to enhance its nuclear strength, then Washington or any other country for that matter has no right to try to stop Beijing from doing so.

In this new Asian scenario, we think it necessary to state that the Muslim state of Jammu and Kashmir adjoining Pakistan must be part of Pakistan, because it is in accordance with the provisions and requirements of the consensus formula adopted for the division of the Indian subcontinent. Pakistan should also enjoy the right to continue with its nuclear program because, otherwise, it will not be able to protect itself from the peculiar mischief of an aggressive country like India and its other patrons—the United States and Israel. Therefore, the international problem of Kashmir and Pakistan's nuclear program are two separate issues. Under the present circumstances, desisting from accepting any "U.S. package" categorically without holding closer consultations with China can only guarantee our national interests. If the caretaker leadership deviates from this position and makes any compromises on its own, then the people will reject it and their decision will be logical; because, as the president of the People's Republic of China has said, Asia has its own characteristics and system and the people of this region do not accept the new U.S. world order.

Foreign Minister Writes to UN on Kashmir Issue

BK2709164393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar, has drawn the UN (?Headquarters') urgent attention to the massive use of force in Indian-held Kashmir and urged him to take appropriate action to ensure the Kashmiri people's human rights, including their right to self-determination. In a letter to the president of the council for the current one, Mr. (Aldo Faraus Ben Hardat) of Venezuela, he expressed deep concern over the atrocities being committed by Indian forces to suppress the just and legitimate struggle of the Kashmiri people. The foreign minister also suggested expanding the United Nations Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan, saying their presence could help check and restrain Indian occupation forces from committing their crime. Diplomats say Pakistan's stepped up campaign on Kashmir is in response to the unleashing of massive use of force and brutal suppression of the people in the Indian-held Kashmir.

Daily Argues Against Recognition of Israel

BK2709102993 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Sep 93 p 11

[Commentary by Eqbal Ahmad: "Rush to recognize Israel"]

[Text] The accord between the PLO and Israel has divided concerned Pakistani opinion. Many people believe that this is a first step toward peace. Others feel that the Palestinians had no choice but to accept whatever they could get. But the most strident and the least comprehensible are those—and there are far more than you might guess—who are advocating an expeditious Pakistani recognition of Israel.

The arguments offered in favour of recognition are nearly always a mix of fear and opportunism: "Pakistan shall be isolated otherwise" is a common claim. "America has targeted us like Iraq. It will crush us if we don't recognise Israel soon....", a senior journalist cajoled a high ranking Foreign Office official. "Egypt has already recognised, Jordan is about to do so. For God's sake, what are you waiting for?" On the flight from Karachi to Islamabad, a passenger admonished me in clipped English: "Why are you wanting to fight to the last Palestinian. Why do you want Pakistan to be isolated and crushed. We need aid, sir, we need technology..." These admonishments multiplied after I and Mr. Agha Shahi, a seasoned diplomat, argued on PTV that it was premature for Paksitan to support this recent accord or to recognise Israel.

The assumptions of the recognition lobby remain unexamined. What Pakistani interest shall be served by it? Are US alarm over Pakistan's nuclear programme, or its objections to our alleged terror activities, based on our non-recognition of Israel? Will the Israelis regard recognition by us as a strategic breakthrough, and promptly become our ally and lobbyists in Washington? Is Israel a likely strategic or economic partner of Pakistan? In there an objective basis for such partnership? Will the failure to recognise Israel lead to Pakistan's isolation and cause it to be 'crushed' by the US, India, or Israel? These quastions are rarely addressed. It is obvious that advocates of Pakistan's recognition of Israel—by which I understand the establishment of diplomatic relations—have not reasoned out their position.

All analysts of the Israeli-PLO accord may agree that Pakistan's policy goals in this instance should be to (i) to serve its national interests; (ii) without jeopardising its own security, help toward restoring Palestinian rights; and (iii) ensure that Jerusalem not become the "eternal" monopoly of an exclusionary state founded on race and religiousity. An examination of the Israeli-PLO accord, and of the international environment as it affects Pakistan suggests that it is premature and harmful to recognise Israel in the coming five years.

Five years are envisaged in the accord as the maximum period of negotiations of such issues as the status of Jerusalem, settlement of Palestinians displaced by Israel, Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, and the formation of a Palestinian national authority there. Optimists believe that under US and European prodding Israel shall concede the Palestinians the semblance of a just peace. Others, including this writer, believe that Israel is not disposed toward a just peace, and will abuse the terms of this accord in justify its expansionist objectives. But these contrasting perspectives need not cause one to differ over whether or not to recognise Israel now.

Those who care about Palestinian rights, Jerusalem's future as a monument in acumenism, the inadmissibility of territorial expansion by conquest, or about limiting Israel's expansive ambitions—its leaders have openly spoken of the region from Morocco to Pakistan as its 'sphere of influence'—should obviously withhold recognition as Israel's dividend for peace, and also as a signal to its patron, the United States, that there is a sovereign and lawful line which even dependent and client nations are reluctant to cross. This principle applies to any country whose interest is not served by condoning conquest and rewarding aggession. The mere fact that some countries may breach this principle is not a good enough reason to follow a bad example. This simple insight has led a coalition of diverse political opinion in Kuwait, Tunisia, Yemen, and Jordan to caution against precipitous recognition of Israel. It is unlikely that many Arab countries shall recognize Israel as a result of this accord.

'Arafat has signed a defective agreement. It will further polarise the Middle East. Arabs are divided over it as are Iran and Turkey. These divisions are likely to get worse for the issue involves a superpower, its protege, clients, and also its challenges. Pakistan sits at the periphery of this worsening struggle for power and resources. Short-term gains could tempt its decision-makers to become a party to the strike and the sabotage and interventions which are in the offing. Our national interest shall be best served if we keep out of the fray and, when possible, help discourage miscalculations and aggession. No country should be so scared as to fear exercising even a limited degee of autonomy in defining its international relations.

I should be more specific. It is known that for the last two years, the US and Israel have been preparing methodically to isolate Iran and put an end to its posture of independence and Islamism. These preparations include economic strangulation, internal subversion, and military violence. Israel's pressures for ever more forceful American initiatives against Iran are so insistent and brazen that even American officials worry over it in private. Iran is our neighbour and historically a friendly one.

Given our unfortunate relations with India, we cannot afford an unfriendly neighbour to our north and west. It can harm Pakistan greatly if Iran were to perceive our policies as detrimental to its interest. And that is how it will view Pakistan's recognition of Israel now.

The United States', and Israel's, opposition to Pakistan's nuclear and missiles development programme are not likely to diminish by gestures such as establishing diplomatic relations with Israel. Their objectives in pressuring Pakistan to dismantle its nuclear capabillty are strategic and political. They view nuclear arms as a political and psychological weapon, and its unchallenged display, in Henry Kissinger's phrase, as "the twentieth century equivalent of showing the flag". If Israel is to function as the regional hegemony, its nuclear monopoly must be maintained.

We know that US supplies have invested Israel its expanded strategic outreach from Morocco to Pakistan. There is some evidence that US also aided the development of Israel's awesome nuclear arsenal. We have seen also that Washington's non-proliferation policies are discriminatory in Israel's favour. Pakistan's nuclear development is perceived by both the US and Israel as potentially upsetting this psychological balance of power, now in Israel's favour. Pakistan's recognition of Israel cannot change these calculations. Only the dismantling, or at least freezing, of Pakistan's nuclear programme can cause a significant change in US policy toward Pakistan.

Officially, Pakistan need not denounce the Israeli-PLO accord. It may merely reserve judgment, as Prime Minister Moin Qureshi has done, until Israel demonstrates genuine interest in peace beyond the municipal autonomy this accord promises. For us to praise this accord will be at best an embarrassment, and at worst an entrapment. Some Indian analysts and officials are citing this accord as a model for settling the question of Kashmir. Yet, Kashmiris have revolted against an arrangement under which they exercised much more autonomy than Israel has conceded to 'Arafat.

The rush to recognise Israel is a sign of our time. One notes with sadness that complete demoralisation prevails in much of the Muslim world. It is a world in pain and menaced by new forces of aggression and domination. While a holocaust is suffered by Bosnians, Palestinians continue to be punished, Kashmiris suffer daily cruelties, and lebanon was invaded yet agian. Muslim regimes compete to curry American favours. The official culture of the Muslim world is corrupt and defeatist which is at least as harmful as the mindless triumphalism of men like Saddam Husayn or the early PLO. It is far more alarming that incresingly the Muslim intelligentsia has become demoralised and, by default, the banner of dissent and resistance has passed to the 'Islamic' militants who, though capable of a good fight, are unequipped to build humane and democratic societies. Unless we change this state of affairs our future shall remain dark.

Editorial Views Rao Visit to Iran

BK2409103793 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 24 Sep 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Rao's Tehran Visit"]

[Text] It is a matter of considerable significance of Pakistan that Prime Minister Narasimha Rao of India, having visited China recently is now holding wide-ranging talks with the Iranian leaders in Tehran. Both countries are our neighbours with a long-standing record of close cooperation with Pakistan and have an important bearing on its external security dimension. On the other hand, India's relationship with the two has ranged from cool in the case of Iran to hostile with regard to China. Over the course of his recent visit to China, however, the two countries have moved decisively towards resolving their border dispute and laying the framework for a different kind of relationship. Now in Tehran, too, Rao is working towards closer ties between the two countries. There are concrete interests involved on both sides. India's energy sector, for instance, can be greatly helped by Iran's immense oil and gas reserves. On the other hand, Iran seeks India's technological help.

made all the more attractive in view of the countrys'relative isolation from Industrially advanced Western countries. In fact, a deal for the supply of an Indian nuclear reactor for power generation purposes to Iran was dropped by the former as a result of external pressure, not too far back. Externally, Iran would seek India's cooperation by way of keeping in check the rise of US and Western presence in the region.

Iran seems to have indicated to India that it was not willing to sacrifice the close ties with Pakistan as a price for closer coopration with it and has articulated its desire for cooperation among the three. Offering mediation on Kashmir and seeking the removal of 'misunderstandings' between India and Pakistan on the issue, Iranian president Hashemi Rafsanjani has demonstrated his concern for the Kashmiri Muslims as well as Iran's sensitivity to Pakistan's position. Mr Rao, claiming that Kashmir was an internal issue, has turned down Iran's offer but the point has been made. At the same time, however, we must be mindful of the fact that the indications point to the broader cooperation between India and iran developing a pace. On the Kashmir issue, specifically, we must be mindful of the timing with regard to sewing up the best possible deal for the Kashmiris as well as ourselves. For it could work both ways. Right now, there is considerable pressure on India on this issue and its human rights violations in the Valley have undoubtedly become a focus of international attention. But at the same time, there is no move to penalise India in any concrete fashion for its policies while in the region the external environment seems to be turning favourable to India in significant ways. Pakistan should respond with sophistication and speed to these changes.

India Said Able To Make 65 Nuclear Bombs by 1995

BK2709102593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Sep 93 p 12

[Text] New Delhi: India will be able to make 65 nuclear bombs by 1995 as its stockpile of weapons grade plutonium is expected to rise substantially by then.

Claiming this in a report a group of Austrian scientists said India's stock of weapons grade plutonium was around 290 kg at the end of 1991. This was expected to rise to 400 kg by 1995, they observed, adding that while India would be able to make 65 nuclear bombs, Pakistan, which has about 200 kg of such uranium, could produce 13 bombs.

The scientists, in a lengthy critique of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), further said: "India has seven nuclear power plants with one under construction and six more research reactors, while Pakistan has only one nuclear power plant and two research reactors."

The third South Asian country to have a research reactor is Bangladesh, they said.

China has only one nuclear power plant with two under construction. China, however, possesses 12 research reactors, the report said. Besides China, India is the only developing country to possess "home made" nuclear power plants.

Security Agencies Protect Leaders Following Threats

BK2509070793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 25 Sep 93 p 9

[Text] Karachi—The security agencies, both civil and military, have taken over the security arrangements of the top politicians and leadership of the country following an assasination threat, official sources confirmed here on Friday.

The leaders include two former prime ministers and arch rivals cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Benazir Bhutto and the President of the Nawaz faction of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. In addition, some other political leaders were also considered to be under threat and security measures have been tightened for them also, sources close to the provincial government said.

Confirming the report, a senior military official said: "Yes, we have concrete reports in this respect and communicated it to the government for taking appropriate measure.

According to sources, the Sindh province was considered as the likely place where saboteurs could strike.

"The information is credible and based on investigations following arrests of a few people, some of them from across the border," said the official adding that some local activist groups could be used for the assignment. But, "we cannot rule out the possibility of action from a foreign agent," he feared.

According to sources close to the civil administration, during the visit of Benazir Bhutto to the interior Sindh, there was a serious threat to her life on at least two occasions.

One serious threat was perceived when she was addressing a rally in her home town of Larkans and the other was in Khairpur. The security and police officials had to ask her to shorten her speeches so that the stage could be screened, a close aide of Benazir told The News.

Security of the top politicians has now been taken over by the security wing of the police and other intelligence agencies operating in the country. "A senior official has been deputed to ensure safety and security of the leaders and for all the top politicians under threat", the official said.

When contacted, a senior officer said, Rao considers it to be the right time to bring about political instability in Pakistan and any such attempt could shake the country. The rationale behind Rao's plan was to reduce the pressure being felt in held Kashmir." The plan, he said was made across the border and one of the agents was recently apprehended by the intelligence agencies. This agent has discussed details of the plan, the officer added.

India always considered Sindh the "soft belty" of Pakistan and the intelligence agencies had been pointing out the activities of Indian agents in the province. According to official sources criminal activities were also part of their operation in the provinces.

Indian diplomats were also accused of involving themselves in questionable activities. As a result, the Pakistan government had reduced the staff of the Indian High Commission in Karachi substantially in the recent past.

Islamists Condemns Halting of Nuclear Program

BK2509072393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Sep 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad: Sept 24—The Pakistan Islamic Front (PIF) has strongly protested and condemned the government's decision to stop the country's nuclear programme. The PIF has termed it the worst decision ever taken in the history of the country by any government.

Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad, Chief of the PIF, has convened a high-level meeting of the PIF here to discuss the developments.

According to the PIF sources the decision has caused anguish and sorrow in the ranks of the Front. "The fears, expressed by Senator Hussain about the caretakers, have proved to be correct. The imported leadership from Washington has done a thing which no other government could dare even to think", sources of the PIF said.

They said it was day of victory and jubllation for the enemies of the Muslim Ummah. The decision had made the defence of Islamic world vulnerable and weak.

They said the PIF after coming into power will revive the nuclear programme. Pakistan's defence needs the nuclear programme and people should stand up against the caretakers decision.

Sources said the PIF was planning to give a call to observe a black day against this decision.

Caretaker Government's Nuclear Decision Assailed

BK2509073593 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Sep 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Surrendering the Nuclear Programme"]

[Text] The fears expressed earlier in these columns that the caretaker government was giving in under U.S. pressure on the nuclear issue seems to be coming true. When the caretakers were first thrust on us many thoughful people suspected that they were to implement a multipurpose World Bank—Washington agenda: To repay foreign debts. roll, back nuclear programme and explore a 'third option' for the resolution of Kashmir problem. As the caretakers' time comes to a close the contours of this agenda are becoming clearer and clearer. But this is an agenda of imperialism and no matter what the brief from Washington is the people will reject it.

Caretaker Prime Minister Moin Qureshi, in a specially arranged newspaper interview that Pakistan's nuclear programme has been capped. Disclosing this, he declared that the notorious Pressler Law (which the U.S. Government used in 1990 to suspend all economic and military assistance to this country) would now go and the way thus paved for the resumption of U.S. aid. What assurances he has that this indeed is the thinking of the U.S. Government and what grounds are there to believe that U.S. assistance to Pakistan will be restored, Mr Qureshi did not care to say. Even if there were any credible guarantees that the U.S. assistance will be restored, it shall not be at the cost of giving up on our nuclear programme. Particularly so when we have known the hard way that U.S. assistance is not dependable and Washington always finds an excuse to wriggle out of its commitments. The stoppage of assistance in 1990, midway through the 1987-1993 package is a case in point. Even otherwise, we have survived without U.S. assistance, after 1965-76 and since 1990. We shall value the nation's resolve for attaining self- sufficiency in all vital matters.

Mr Moin Qureshi's revelation that Pakistan has capped its nuclear programme is full of sinister implications. It has raised some pertinent and serious questions which the caretakers will have to answer. It is not quite like announcing a drive against drug traffickers or making public the list of bank loans and walk away with head high.

The issue involved here is deeper and more fundamental as it touches upon the security and survival of the country. It is an issue on which there is national consensus and no government, least of all a non-representative, imported and caretaker type, can take a unilateral decision without taking the nation into confidence.

Now that the caretaker Prime Minister has revealed that our nuclear programme has been capped he has also to tell the nation at what it has been capped and why, when and by whom. At its current level (whatever it may be) or at the level of 1989 as has been demanded by Washington ever since it invoked Pressler law three years ago and suspended all economic and military assistance to this country including the sale of F-16s for which Pakistan had already made an advance payment had already made an advance payment of some 600 million dollars? The U.S. condition for waiving the embargo has always been that Pakistan roll back its nuclear programme to the Oct 1989 level—the last time when President Bush certified Pakistan's nuclear innocence. When Mr Moin Quershi expresses the hope that how the Pressler Law would go, does it imply tht we have acceptd the U.S. condition and capped the nuclear programme at its 1989 level? The only interpretation of Mr Qureshi's revelation is that we have accepted what the U.S. wanted but the question must, however, be answered categorically and unambiguously.

And what does the capping of nuclear programme at the 1989 level mean? The admission of this in September 1993 is ominous. One can't roll back the present technological capability to a level at which it was four years ago. But we can unscrew and dismantle, something which might have been assembled. In plain words, therefore, it means that the country's nuclear programme has been dismantled to a considerable degree and we undertake not to do it again. There is no escape from drawing this conclusion from what Mr Moin Qureshi has said.

This leads to the question: Who ordered the roll back and when. Such an order must have been made by the caretaker because the erstwhile IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government had opposed it till it remained in office. This raises the question whether the caretakers who are here by accident only for another two weeks to hold fair and free election, are competent to take important decisions on major national and foreign policy issues. Having no constitutional mandate and not directly answerable to the people, policy issues particularly those involving national security on such issues remain the exclusive prerogative and responsibility of an elected government armed with a clear mandate and which is answerable to the people.

The matter is of utmost national importance and calls for an immediate emergency session of the Senate of Pakistan. The best way would be that the political parties join hands in requisitioning such a session and insist on putting all relevant facts before the House. In the meanwhile, the political leaders shall find time from their election campaign and express themselves clearly against this treacherous decision. They shall remember that the people of Pakistan will never accept capitulation on the nuclear question and those who betray them will be regarded as traitors.

Commentary Urges Repeal of Pressler Amendment

BK2509060993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Commentary by Mohammad Yamin: "Discriminatory Application of Pressler Amendment"]

[Text] If there is one single U.S. measure that has adversely affected the relations between Pakistan and the United States, it undoubtedly is the Pressler Amendment. This piece of U.S. legislation has a unique peculiarity in that it is concerned with its relations with only one foreign country; namely, Pakistan. The law provides that the U.S. President would render a certificate annually to say that Pakistan neither possesses a nuclear device nor is it in the process of possessing one before Pakistan could qualify to receive any assistance—military or economic—during the year. The requisite certification had come forth regularly during the Afghan war, and suddenly it was withheld in 1990 and has not been available ever since, although there was no change at that point in Pakistan's modest nuclear program than what its dimension and nature had been during the Afghan conflict. As a result, the U.S. aid to Pakistan has been under suspension since then.

Now in the first instance, the Pressler Amendment is a bad law because it is discriminatory in nature. It regulates U.S. relations with only one country in a particular context, but there is no other law laying down similar conditions in respect of any other country. Pakistan is seriously hit by it, as a major power in the region who has forced war on Pakistan thrice—the last one having resulted in the dismemberment of Pakistan—and who exploded a nuclear device way back in 1974, is excluded from its ambit. The Pressler Amendment virtually meant tying Pakistan's hands behind its back and throwing it at the mercy of ruthless and fully-armed adversary. The Pressler Amendment was passed by U.S. under the pressure of the powerful Indian and Zionist lobbies, but no harm came from it initially as the U.S. President's annual certificate came through in a routine manner. But the situation changed in 1990 and the USA saw it fit to apply it stringently without regard to its effect on the regional politics, U.S.-Pakistan relations, and the United States' own global interest.

This change in the United States' policy has occurred under pressure from the untiring Indian lobby, but perhaps the American government had also considered that this was a useful expedient to promote the cause of nuclear nonproliferation. The U.S. measure has, however, had a totally opposite effect. The U.S. aid to Pakistan was of course cut off, but despite this unwelcome development, Pakistan declined to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the NPT, unilaterally as suggested by the United States. Pakistan's position has been that while it neither possesses nor intends to manufacture a nuclear weapon, it cannot give up the right to at least acquire the technical capability to produce one, should it become unavoidable in view of the security considerations, unless India was persuaded to sign the NPT as well. Pakistan has undergone many a hardship during the last three years, but because its stand was based on principles, it did not come under the pressure.

Most of the world powers, including the USA, are sympathetic toward this Pakistani concept of a regional approach to this problem. However, the United States expected Pakistan to oblige, so that the USA could count it as a step forward toward universal nonproliferation. It is gratifying to note that the public opinion in the USA, as also the thought process within the U.S. Congress and Government, is now coming round to an appropriate appreciation of Pakistan's viewpoint. It is now being increasingly felt by the American people and the U.S. authorities that the Pressler Amendment has failed to achieve its objective. The measure is, therefore, almost redundant and there is a need to remove it.

Prime Minister Moin Qureshi, during the course of an interview with a panel of newsmen the other day, predicted that the Pressler Amendment would be done away with in months ahead. The sooner this expectation of his comes true, the better for everyone concerned. It has seriously affected the friendly relations enjoyed by Pakistan and the United States over the decades and has made no contribution whatsoever in promoting the nuclear weapon nonproliferation regime.